

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

SAVVY TIMES



Welcome to the Journey! Issue 10, January 2006

The Official Parelli Savvy Club Magazine



The Story of Remmer

Durable Teachings...

Europe Does Dressage Naturally!

Rober Miller, DVM Celebrating
the Revolution in Horsemanship



2006

NC, Fletcher Mar 18-19

PA, Harrisburg Apr 8-9

TX, Fort Worth Apr 22-23

OK, Guthrie Apr 29-30

WA, Yakima May 13-14

OR, Albany May 20-21

IA, Sioux City Jun 3-4

MN, St Paul Jun 10-11

CO, Loveland Jul 8-9

NM, Albuquerque Jul 15-16

NV, Las Vegas* Jul 22-23

CA, Bakersfield Aug 5-6

NV, Reno Aug 12-13

TN, Murfreesboro* Oct 7-8

FL, Jacksonville Oct 28-29

SC, Pelzer Nov 11-12

NC, Williamston Dec 2-3

FL, Ocala Dec 9-10

*To Be Confirmed

PARELLI U.S.A. TOUR

"INSPIRING." "EDUCATIONAL." "REVEALING."

Tickets \$65 ★ \$100 at the Door

Savvy Club Members and Under 16 FREE

www.parelli.com 1-800-642-3335

SAVVY TIMES

The Official Parelli Savvy Club Magazine

Issue 10, January 2006

www.parellisavvyclub.com (US Only)

savvyclub@parelli.com

*Photography by: Coco/Firefly Fotos
(except where noted)*

Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship, USA

PO Box 3729 • 56 Talisman, Ste. 6

Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147

1-800-642-3335 • Fax: 970-731-9722

www.parelli.com

FOUNDERS Linda & Pat Parelli

PRESIDENT Mark Weiler

ART DIRECTOR Yvonne Wilcox

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Laura Dollar • John Driscoll

VIDEO DPT. David Burns • Eric Weiler

ADVERTISING/EVENTS Tara Harris • Laura Rome

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Olin Blodgett • Heather Davey

Chris Dollar • Erin Meyerholtz

ACCOUNTING Alilia Blodgett • Adele Burchett

Penelope Stowell

PURCHASING Eddie Kilgore

SALES Matt Coats • Kathy Leslie

Sharon Sampson • Julie Schmidt

Rochelle Shahan • Misty Talbot • Amy Torrez

Renee Weger • Aurora Wright

SHIPPING/RECEIVING Janet Jones

Jerry Renforw • Clarence Riley

TOUR DIRECTOR Sue Shoemark

TOUR Mike Decristoforo • Michael Grohman

Kalley Krickeberg • Julia Ryman • Ray Schmidt

Kelly Sigler • Carmen Smith

DEAN OF THE PAT PARELLI CENTERS

Neil Pye

Pat Parelli Centers:

COLORADO

7110 Hwy 160 West, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

FLORIDA

8695 NW 120th Street, Reddick, FL 32686

Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship, Canada

Box 543 • 3627 Hwy 97A

Armstrong, BC, V0E 1B0 Canada

877-727-3554 • Fax: 250-546-2774

www.parellicanada.com

©2006 Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship.

2	Dear Friends	28	Q&A with Linda Parelli
4	Aha! Moments	30	Robert Miller, DVM Celebrating the Revolution in Horsemanship
5	Letters	33	Growing Up with Smart Seven
6	Our Readers Write About: TECHNIQUES	34	The Story of Remmer
8	Parelli 2005 Tour— Live Your Dream	39	What Rhymes with Fluidity?
10	Obstacle Puzzles: Test Your Savvy!	40	Behind the Camera
14	Durable Teachings...	42	Europe Does Dressage Naturally!
19	What Students Are Saying After the First Six Week Class...	46	Blast from the Past: Overcoming the Stigma of "The Hunting Ape" The Prey—Predator Difference
20	What Knot to Know	48	Muleanality: Kokomo Joe
21	Meet the Team	50	A Level 2 Journey: Part 5
22	Global Community		
24	Savvy Club Update		
26	Junior Savvy		
27	A Conversation Between GinnySue & Bud Ross		



Linda Parelli & Remmer at the 2005
Savvy Conference in Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Philosophical discussions on horsemanship

Hi everyone! Welcome to 2006, the beginning of an exciting year for the world of natural horsemanship!

So much has happened in the past year, for us, our horses, our students. We can *feel it in our bones* that 2006 is going to see the natural horsemanship movement receiving more attention than ever before—worldwide.

At the close of our courses in Colorado last year, we traveled to Texas for the Walter Zettl clinic. Mr. Zettl is a highly accomplished dressage teacher. His philosophies, methods and techniques are very much in line with our own. Linda and I were introduced to Walter a year ago when some of our students rode in his clinic.

I rode Magic on the first day of the clinic and Nova on the second. It was great to have somebody give me 'micro' coaching. It causes you to think in your subconscious, "I can see how that would be just a little better if I did it a little sooner." It was an enlightening experience for me and Linda, it took her to another level.

Linda and I performed as part of the exhibition on the first night. Linda really wowed the audience, having fun with Remmer at Liberty and then riding and jumping bareback in a halter. Zettl's comments were inspiring, "This is the way we used to do it! We always rode our horses over jumps and bareback and went to the beach."

I organized for Lauren Barwick [*Canadian Equestrian of the Year/see November 2005 Savvy Club DVD*] to ride Magic in the demo. Lauren had ridden with me for two weeks at the Colorado Center and in a spectacular demo at our 2005 Savvy Conference. That evening when she rode Magic, she started incorporating some of the exercises she had seen from the day. She did a blow-your-socks-off demo and proved what a great student and quick learner she is. The fact she is paralyzed from the waist down... Magic just rode as though I was riding her. A lot of people were blown away by that.

I then played with Casper at Liberty while riding Magic. Those two are just phenomenal. Walter said it was the best horsemanship demonstration he had seen in his life!

On to Europe...

Our first engagement was in Barcelona with our good friend Luis Lucio. Luis is an extraordinary equestrian and accomplished member of the Spanish Olympic team. He took us to see Beatrice Ferer-Salat. We met Beatrice [Dressage Olympic Silver medalist] last year when we helped her with a spooky horse, Martell. The horse was explosive and unreliable, yet very talented. After about 45 minutes of playing with the horse,

I was able to stand behind him and crack an Australian stock whip.

Another horse I played with was an Olympic hopeful, Fabergé. The horse was so spooky, he'd bolt out of the arena when the judge tipped his hat. Beatrice asked if she could send Fabergé to the Florida Parelli Center for six months for more education. I said, "No, you don't need to do that. You just need to focus more on where you are going instead of looking at his head position and those kinds of things." We worked together on this for the rest of the session.

Beatrice emailed us just the other day. Not only did she win her classes on Fabergé, but one of her top riders rode Beatrice's other spooky horse, Martell, in a Grand Prix for the first time in her life and won!

Next we went to watch Luis ride Titanic, a five-year-old, Spanish Andalusian stallion. When Luis was sent this horse, he was wild, had never been touched. This is how we met Luis. I sent some of my European Professionals, Mikey Wanzenreid and Walter Guggenshatz to help Titanic. Walter took the stallion for about six months and really did a nice job of getting him tame and confident.

As Luis started doing more dressage with Titanic, some typical problems started to arise. He was showing a lot more talent than I had previously felt he had a capacity for, but was having fits of uncontrolled exuberance.

I played with him on the ground with a long rope. He bucked and struck and played, exuberance was just wanting to blow out of him. After he'd had a real chance to play—after just one session—he was starting to be the horse that everyone wanted him to be: calm, brave and athletic.

Over the past 15 years we've mostly been recognized for our programs for recreational riders. But more and more we're catching the attention of people at higher levels in the performance world. Beatrice has won six medals at the Olympics and/or world championships in the last few years. Luis has been on two Olympic teams. Their coach took Spain from obscurity to winning a silver medal at the last Olympics. It's like, all of a sudden some interesting things are starting to come into play.

That night Luca Moneta, Italian Olympic hopeful showed up. He brought a guest with him, Michel Robert. Michel went to his first Olympics in 1972 and has represented France ever since. He's an absolute living legend in jumping and is regarded as one of the top ten riders in the world. He is also well known for his avant-garde approach to horsemanship. Michel showed up just as I was about to play with Titanic. He saw all the ground stuff and all the Freestyle riding—I rode Titanic in a natural hackamore. Michel was really excited and said to Linda, "This is how you should ride the horse. The balance is perfect and the way you are doing



it... let the horse go forward and then ask for collection at the later end."

The next morning Luis offered an ex-jumping horse for Michel to play with. Michel knows the Seven Games, but when he got out there he had some interesting things of his own that he tried—a few little things that were different than anything I've ever done. When he finally had the horse ready and rode it, Linda said—other than the size difference and French accent—Michel could be my twin brother!

It was interesting to see somebody else who had taken the concepts, gotten them on their own, fostered them to a level—the highest level—and put them together naturally. This previously problematic horse was going forward, turning, jumping and giving leads to Michel in just one session. You could see that if he had three sessions, Michel could compete on this horse.

We really thank Luca for introducing Michel to us. It proved how the things we do on the ground prepare the horse mentally, emotionally, and physically for what the expectations are; how important communication while riding is; and how important Freestyle riding is if you do it with Fluidity. We spent five beautiful days in Barcelona and met some top class horsemen.

After our trip to Barcelona we flew to Parelli UK for their conference. Linda presented Fluidity demos and I was given an opportunity to play with a sensitive, 'fractious' horse over the two days of the event. We are very excited with the overwhelming response from the audience and want to sincerely thank everyone for their enthusiasm and support.

Then it was time to come home to the USA for tour events, faculty training and the launch of our brand new course curriculum at our Center in Florida. With full courses, enthusiastic students and great expectations the six week schedule produced phenomenal results. With 2006 courses already full, we're excited to take the next step in this incredible journey, and hope to see you along the way.

Keep it Natural, Pat Parelli

***New course
formats at
the Centers
(Fall 2005)
dived deep
into Horse
Behavior,
Liberty and
Fluidity***

Aha! Moments

You know you truly understand Parelli when you see how it applies to a part of your life that has nothing to do with horses. Send us your *Aha! Moments* to share with fellow Savvy Club members. savvyclub@parelli.com or Parelli, Attn: Savvy Times, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

I took my husband and my son to the Maryland tour stop. The best objective that was brought away from the weekend was with my son. We had to leave early on Saturday as he was the Master of Ceremonies at his high school cabaret that night.

After we got home we sat on the couch going over some of the things that we learned and he said to me, "You know Pat is the most passionate person I've met and heard other than you and Dad, Mom. He's passionate about what he knows and believes in. He's passionate about his whole life. I understand him."

I asked him what he was getting at. He said after listening to his friends perform at school he realized that they were just going through the motions.

"Pat opened the door for me to understand what it was my co-students were about. They weren't really passionate about singing and performing their parts. They're not like me. I understand Pat because I am just as passionate about music as he is about his horses. I can connect with that and now connect with my own horse because I understand what it is that I feel. When I sing I feel the song, lyrics and music in my heart. I feel the beat bring every thing to my heart and then I open up my mouth and I SING. Pat feels the music of the horses. Other people just don't get it. They don't feel the music of their life."

Got to tell you folks. My son blew me away.

—Savvy Club Forum post

I have learned the power of forgiveness, the magic of patience, and the importance of dignity. My beautiful, golden mares are teaching me to be a mother.

—Cynthia L. Johnson-Kuntz, Washington

I am a special education teacher of handicapped three and four year old youngsters. Part of the appeal of the Parelli program, has for me, been the "special-ed-ness" of the teaching. Task analysis is a big part of special-ed and exactly what you have done... broken everything down into its individual steps to learn, then practice until the movement and brain connections come into muscle memory—physically and mentally! As I teach, so shall I learn. I think it's a GREAT program from both a learner's and teacher's perspective.

—Heather Mason, Maryland

I have a Doberman that is about a year and a half old and has a fear of objects. He is afraid of my swivel chair in my office because it moves. I don't know where he developed his fear from because we have had him since he was 10 weeks old.

I was bringing in groceries yesterday, and he was terrified—picture this big huge Doberman afraid to even come in the room because of some plastic bags on the floor. I said to myself that is definitely right brained behavior as he plowed over Lola (his pit bull sister) to run

out of the room. I began playing the friendly game with the bags and he gained confidence. I made him squeeze between me and the eight-pack of paper towels, and he did. Well maybe tonight I will try to play with the chair in my office and see how that goes over.

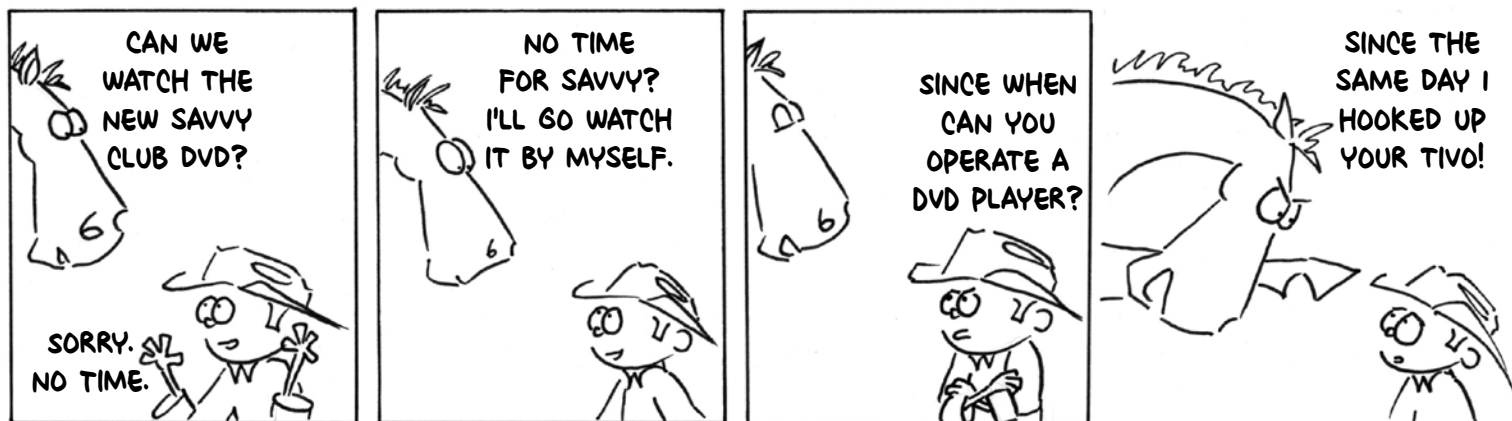
—Savvy Club Forum post

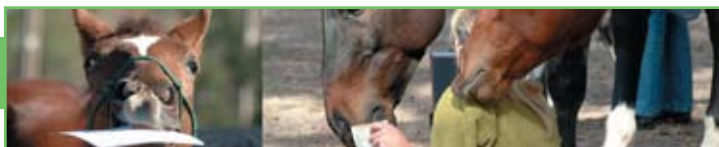
Having taught T'ai Chi Ch'uan for 18 years, I'll offer a few comments based on that perspective. I'll try to refrain from telling you what you will gain from your study, because that will be part of your individual journey of discovery. It's why "you should not make assumptions." They get in the way of your seeing the "Truth of the moment."

I would always begin a course by demonstrating the form to give the students a visual reference. I explained that the form is a framework for learning and that the true process of T'ai Chi occurred within that framework. This is just as I believe the Seven Games are not Horsemanship, but the framework for learning it. A person can get very good at performing T'ai Chi, but overlook the treasures playing out before them. A person can wave a stick at a horse and make them do something, and not understand what just happened before their eyes. It's not about the T'ai Chi form, it's not about the stick, it's not about the barrels. This is what intrigues me about Parelli and the study of horses.

—Savvy Club Forum post

M.E. & OH BOY® BY KATJA TAURES





A SPECIAL DAY, A SAVVY MOMENT, A BIG BREAKTHROUGH

I had just done some round penning with Missy when this woman I knew walked up as I was exiting. She asked her horse to go around the pen. Instead, he kept tightly circling her, then dancing away and running back up to her. He wouldn't stay on the rail. He was deciding which horsey games to play with his owner.

The owner asked me for advice. I offered to play with her horse for a few minutes. I don't pretend to have any more savvy than anyone else, but I like to think I can send a horse around the pen with some nice changes of direction and gaits. This horse didn't require super exaggerated body language or big movements. He stayed on the rail without coming at me. He changed directions without charging through me. When we were ready, he came to me and I put his halter on for some basic Porcupine, Driving and Yo yo Games. I was describing to the owner what I was doing. He was very responsive and licked his lips almost constantly.

We walked our horses back to our paddocks. She said to me that she felt like going for a ride. I said I would be happy to accompany her if she wanted to go on a short jaunt. I waited as she painstakingly saddled up her horse. First, he was re-brushed. Then, his polos were re-wrapped. Then the saddle had to be dusted off, and the stirrup irons evened. Her helmet had to be located, then adjusted. Missy and I just waited patiently until finally, he was tacked up and she was ready to mount.

We walked our horses side by side. Her horse was an angel. She had the hugest, brightest smile on her face. Many people waved, or stopped to talk, everyone complimenting my friend on her riding. I was on Missy in my bareback pad and halter, and she was in full English regalia. I felt like the "buddy" horse and rider at the racetrack.

Guess what people? So far nothing special, right? Here's the kicker. This was the first time she had ridden her horse in two years! Imagine the courage that it took for her. This all came about because her horse was in left brain for the first time in a long time. She felt

safer with him and ready to take the next step. It was a very powerful experience for me. I feel privileged to have been able to support her.

Savvy on!

—Gretchen King, California

IRAQ UPDATE

Editor's Note: We were first introduced to Steve in the last issue of Savvy Times who is currently deployed with the army in Iraq, leading a civil affairs team, part of special operations.



I hope this finds everyone doing well. All is well in my world and I am really excited about taking my mid-tour leave in a couple of weeks. I can't wait to get home and see all the family and friends. We continue to stay busy with project management and oversight coupled with "special missions" that we have been averaging about every two weeks or so.

Last week our team was given the mission to perform a horse training seminar for a local agricultural cooperative that we established back in August. The seminar was awesome. The picture above is me and my personal guard with a four-year-old that was ridden for the first time after a two hour training session.

I have to admit; I would normally not try and ride a horse after such a short period of time. However, the horse was doing real well, and I think it really amazed the locals. The concept of natural horsemanship and gently breaking a horse was entirely foreign. During the two hour seminar I was met with a lot of ridicule and doubt, but in the end they were interested enough to ask me to do another seminar. The horse training was one of my highlights of this deployment and I am really looking forward to our next seminar.

—Steve Hayden

"GOOD GIRL"

As the director of the Virginia Chapter of ReRun—a non-profit devoted to taking in Thoroughbred racehorses off the track, rehabbing them and finding good homes for them—my wife and I deal daily with the mental and physical needs of these incredible animals. My success in helping Thoroughbreds with "issues"—mainly through Parelli techniques—has resulted in folks wanting to send them to me from all over the country. One of our more well-known residents here is a gelding named Rich In Dallas, who many remember as Seabiscuit from the movie. Owned by The Exceller Fund, Dallas lives on our farm when he's not greeting the public at The Kentucky Horse Park.

A troubled five-year-old, Thoroughbred mare, Lexi, was sent to me after she badly cut her rear legs in a fence and would not allow anybody to treat the wounds. She was noted as a "manhater." Normally I would have allowed her to settle in for a few days first, but the horrible condition of her feet and wounds did not allow for this. It took lots of rubbing, a few slices of apple and maybe 30 minutes for her to willingly give me her feet, trim her rear hooves and wash her wounds. We've been inseparable ever since.

This picture was taken in September after Lexi and I won the walk/trot class in a biathlon, which amounted to a timed 6.5 mile trail ride, followed by an obstacle course. Although we entered strictly for fun, we ended up winning the timed trail ride and taking 7th (of 25) in the obstacle course. I was very proud of her. My wife was able to snap a picture of Lexi giving me one of her "good girl" hugs. Thank You, Parelli.

—Paul Linn, Virginia



The best part of studying Parelli techniques is that they work! We currently have three colts: a four-year-old, a two-year-old, and a one-year-old—all with different horsanalties. However, Parelli techniques work well for all three.

The four-year-old was a true prey animal when we bought him as a two-year-old. He requires lots of Friendly Games, doesn't like the Yo-yo Game, but will play "Hide Your Hiney" and the Driving Game at the drop of a hat. He's also pretty proficient at the Sideways Game on the 22-foot Line.

The two-year-old has been handled since foaling and is very laid back. The first time I rode him, we were playing an extreme friendly game; I had been jumping up and down next to him and finally just hopped on. He gave me an "OK, so what are we doing now?" look and stood there. I rode him bareback for about six weeks before ever riding him in a saddle. Effective techniques make all the difference.

The one-year-old is rambunctious, energetic, and sometimes a little disrespectful. From the day he was born he's been handled and schooled using Parelli techniques. He plays a good Yo-Yo Game but doesn't think too much of the Porcupine Game. That should change.

Parelli techniques are effective, natural, non-threatening, and incredibly adaptable from horse to horse. I don't think I could have accomplished as much as I have, as fast as I have with any other training method.

—STUART TICHENOR, OKLAHOMA

I recently passed my Level 1 in September and was very excited to see the new Level 2 Program available shortly thereafter. I ordered it immediately, and watched all eight DVDs within two weeks. I have started watching them all over again. I can not begin to explain to you how excited I am by Level 2.

So many techniques that Linda teaches in these DVDs absolutely changed my relationship with my horse. Whenever I tried to teach my gelding something new before, I would get right brained. The more he did things wrong, the more I tried to "violently" correct it. When Linda explained that it is okay to go really slow, it was a revelation. WOW!! During the Sideways Game I stopped swinging the rope or waving the stick, and started slowly shaking me finger at the Zone I wanted to move. Whoa— instant sideways.

I absolutely love the book "Move Closer, Stay Longer." Another revelation for me. I had already been using Pat's point to point game with the canter. I was nervous cantering my horse because he was young, unbalanced and had thrown me up over the horn once. So I did the point to point. Canter from one corner to the next. It helped



us both. I was also very nervous about bareback riding. I had never done that before. But I "Moved Closer and Stayed Longer." The explanation of thresholds helped me recognize my own limitations and push past them. Today I cantered for the first time bareback. It was awesome!!! Also, I no longer push my horse to go past something scary on the trail. Now, I allow him to approach and retreat.

Today on the way from his paddock to the barn, we did the Circling Game, the Sideways Game, the Squeeze Game all the while we moseyed from one patch of grass to the next. I have owned horses in the past but I have NEVER had this much fun or had this great of a relationship with a horse before. I go out to the barn everyday, and I can't wait to go back the next day.

What's really amazing, is that I got my gelding in January as an un-broke, three-year-old. He was so right brained and so violent when he started his training that he actually ran his head into the wall, tried to run down my sister, reared, shook his head and couldn't be loaded in a trailer. My (non-Parelli) trainer and I actually discussed having him put down if she couldn't "fix him." Since that time he has passed Level 1, trailer loads like a champ, trail rides along highways, rarely goes right brained and is loved by everyone. Thank you Parellis!!!!

—KIM WINKEL, WISCONSIN

My Grandfather used to say "Everything is complicated until you understand it, that's when it becomes simple." These words came back to me as I first opened my Level 1 pack and thought, "Oh boy, this is going to take a while to figure out." I'd had horses for 20 years, but these concepts were making me dig deeper, challenging my way of thinking. So I stumbled around with sticks and ropes looking like a fool until one day I wasn't thinking about the steps any more. The complicated had become easy.

My mind now had all this free time to pay more attention to other things, like the looks my horses were giving me, and thinking up silly ways to use these new

Each issue of Savvy Times features a particular subject to which our readers can respond. The deadlines following are when your 250-word submission must be received to be considered for publishing.

April Issue:

"Time" Feb 12, 2006

July Issue:

"Imagination"

May 15, 2006

October Issue:

"Savvy" Aug 15, 2006

Please send submissions via e-mail to: savvyclub@parelli.com or via U.S. Postal Service to: Savvy Times, c/o Parelli, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147. Thanks!

games. When I began to relax and laugh at myself more, this was when my technique started taking huge steps forward beyond the physical steps of technique, into the savvy realm. In fact I actually experienced blissful growth. (For those of you who read "How Do You Eat an Elephant?" in the October '05 issue of Savvy Times, I may have part of the answer. We HAVE to laugh at ourselves. We HAVE to enjoy the journey. We HAVE to take the pressure off ourselves as well as our horses. There is no race to Level 3. Others including ourselves will make us believe we haven't achieved success until we reach the end—until we're perfect. Well, success comes one step at a time. And it will come faster when we expect to goof up. When we do we're not surprised. And when things go well, we are elated to have such a good day. If our thoughts are on how disappointed we are in ourselves, then we're not paying attention to the horse or thinking of new things to do. Loosen up. Have fun.) So as I started paying more attention to my body language, my horses feedback and "Hum, what can I try next," my techniques became less physical and more savvy.

Soon I found myself noticing things I'd just skipped over in the past. Because I didn't understand what I'd seen my horses doing, I'd disregarded them. Now as I headed into Level 2 with renewed interest and previewed Level 3—it was interesting to see how over my years of riding—I had picked up on bits and pieces of savvy and technique, but the Parelli Program gave me a bigger, more complete picture of all that was possible. One mental breakthrough was that horses are not all cookie cutter copies. Savvy technique is a custom fit to each individual horse we work with. They all have different needs and "horsenalities" that require an individual touch. As we progress, we learn the key to savvy technique lies not just in steps and tools, but also in understanding horse behavior, our approach, and application of cues—where the feel and timing really begin to develop.

I began to see what a powerful impact my focus made in my technique. When my filly would become uneasy or start to resist, I would concentrate harder. That intense mental focus showed up in my face and body, which she saw and intimidated her even more. Not only was she unsure and didn't understand, now I was looking mad about it. She really didn't know what to do but get out of there. I noticed the pattern. She reflected my intensity. I saw it in her, realized she was reacting to me, relaxed, smiled, backed off, repositioned and tried a softer approach. Seeing the look in her body and face change from the tense "I don't know about this," to the head

lowered, "Whew, that's all you want?" was very rewarding. To me it was only a thought, but to her it was much bigger than that. Our focus is a powerful part of technique that can work for or against us. It pays to be aware of how our thoughts cause our expression and body to change. And it's exciting to see the patterns. Once you start seeing them, you can decide where to make changes.

I'm convinced the best techniques are consistent and flexible. Consistency in our patterns—so the horse quickly recognizes our requests—builds his confidence. Flexibility ins knowing there is a time to be firm and a time to soften. It seems like savvy techniques are constantly in motion, constantly reading feedback, constantly considering the humans effect on the horse, adjusting feel, timing and approach. One day you realize you no longer have to think about these things. They just happen. It's simply become a part of you.

—TAMI PRITCHETT

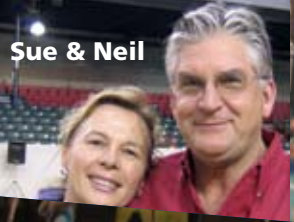
Techniques—that word means so much to me now. To me, it means knowing what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. It means that no matter what the situation I have the techniques to get out of it or fix it.

The word that comes to mind is talent. This is where my partner comes in... his name is Groovy, he is a seven-year-old Thoroughbred! We are now in Level 2 and enjoying every minute of it. He has also taught me a lot, because you need the talent and techniques to play with him. I now know what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. Thanks to Pat and his Program, I now have the techniques to be able to succeed with Groovy. I no longer get frustrated. Thanks to this Program Groovy and I have techniques to use to be happy and fulfill our dreams. Techniques—it's such a simple word, but it means so much!

—SAMMY MOORE



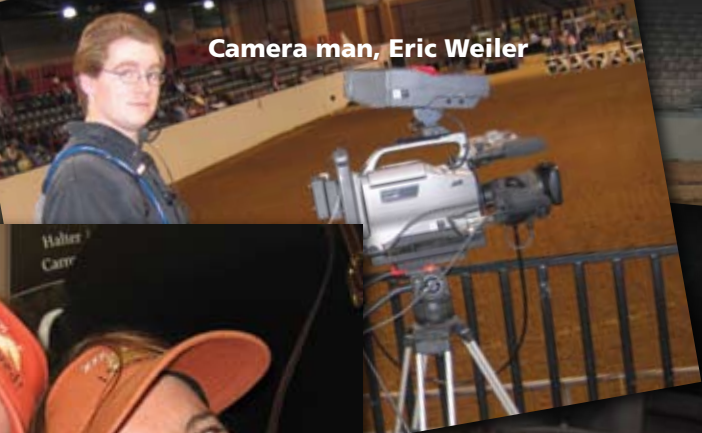
Sue & Neil



Carmen with lifetime member, Bill Kaliher



Camera man, Eric Weiler



Bill Frisbie



Lifetime members, Jerry & Kenny Partlow help out



Julia celebrates her 21st birthday in Red Bluff, CA



The famous 'tour twins,' Cezanne & Evanne Prater



Julia and a Zonkey at an RV park in Texas



Florida



The Grand Canyon



James, Kalley, Julia & Carmen

Julia, Carmen & Kalley



Playing on the 'horsecwalker'



Goliath 'World's Tallest Horse'



Jacque, Kelly, Carmen, Tina, Ray & Michael



Graceland



Nashville: Jacque, Kelly, Carmen, R





Set up & planning



Even the littlest volunteers are a BIG help!



photos courtesy of Carmen Smith



Truck Mascot, 'Spirit'



Home Sweet Home



ay & Julia



Ray and son, Mykil, catching some Zs



photo by Coco

Parelli 2005 Tour —Live Your Dream

Notes from Sue Shoey, Tour Director

I have had the pleasure of being a part of the most 'outstanding' team of dedicated individuals that Pat and Linda have ever had to support them while touring. To travel throughout the US and hear nothing but glowing complements about our Show and Team, who are living examples of Parelli principles, is a great testament to the fine people who dedicate their lives to studying life and looking at it from the horse's point of view!

They, like you, are fundamental in the growth of Parelli throughout the world and part of the transformation in horse-human relationships.

Personally, each weekend is a very unique experience. Saturdays have their own energy and life, with many dedicated students saying 'Hi,' and many questions from new attendees—who are trying to understand what Parelli is all about. For those of you who have helped us this year, you have experienced the energy and sense of unity of Sunday mornings. After a night of dreams of possibilities with horses, we experience a magic morning with special music and outstanding horsemanship from the founder and most brilliant innovator of the natural horsemanship movement, Pat Parelli.

Thanks to all of the team who have traveled through the year, plus the support team in the office that set up all the logistics, answers the phones and are the voice of Parelli. I am blessed to be in a role that supports Pat, Linda and Caton Parelli, in changing horse-human relationships, thanks also to Mark Weiler and Neil Pye for their consistent leadership and guidance. So 2006... here we come!



Halloween in Shelbyville

Help Your Horse Learn to Figure Out **PUZZLES!**

Whenever you come up to an obstacle, you want your horse to ask a question, "Which game are we going to play?"

Here are some sideways puzzles with a pole on the ground, a log, and cow flavored barrels to try with your horse.

It's important to make sure you have a good friendly game first, and that your horse feels comfortable around the obstacles. If he's afraid, you'll need to work on his confidence using approach and retreat.

Check your isolations: can you move the hindquarters, can you move the forequarters? Can you send your horse sideways with a log in front of Zone 1?

When he can confidently go sideways with the log in front of him, can you ask him to add a little speed?

Can he go sideways without anything in front of him?

Can he put his foot up on the obstacle? Can he jump the obstacle?

Remember it's a game! Keep it fun, imaginative and have confidence be your goal... not just the maneuver.



Sideways with the pole in Zone 5.



Sideways behind the log with you on the opposite side of the log.



Sideways behind the log adding a little speed.



Stand with the pole in Zone 1 and wait.

Step over the pole so the pole is in Zone 3 and wait.

Go slowly sideways to the end of the pole and wait.



Stop and wait with the log in Zone 1.
Put your foot on the log.



Step over the log and rest.



Go sideways to the end of
the log and rest.



Go sideways over the length of the log.



Go sideways over one cow-flavored barrel.

Go sideways over three cow flavored barrels.



DURABLE TEACHINGS...

The new Parelli Center Courses, through the eyes of Kaffa Martignier.



WELCOME...

"Welcome to a special place that attracts special people." Neil Pye, Dean of the Parelli Centers, welcomes the students at the start of the new Courses in Florida.

Neil has seen Parelli evolve from its very early days...

"Pat's words profoundly affected me at the first Course I went to in Australia in 1992. I hope you feel even half as excited today as I felt then, when I first saw the plan and the story unfolding.

"To come here is always special, never more so than today. In past Courses, we've shone a light on the Home Study Program. Now we are going to shine a light on the more abstract, on aspects of horsemanship that you cannot put your finger on so easily.

"People are drawn to horses, to their beauty and power; there is something about horses that seems to whisper to us of freedom, of flight... However, when we try to harness that power and partake of that freedom, we often find the reality is different than how we dreamed it would be.

"We're attracted to horses' power and movement, yet we find ourselves holding back, wanting to control. We love their naturalness, yet we are most challenged when they listen to Mother Nature and not to us.

"To help humans develop the knowledge and feel necessary to partner up with the horse in a way that's safe and harmonious for both parties, we need to look closely at how humans learn. This is what Linda has done in developing the new Courses.

"What we are launching is a whole different level of teaching and learning. It will not all be easy, because growth involves discomfort and change is not always convenient, but it will be enormously worthwhile."

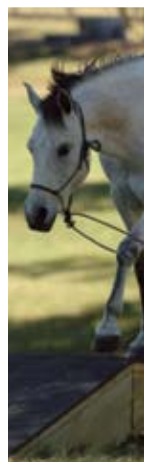
COMMON THREADS

More than 20 years ago Pat began creating logical paradigms to help people understand horses. He set out to empower people to become diagnosticians, able to read horses categorically.



For over a decade Linda has been the scribe who brought Pat's skeletons of information to light. In Neil Pye's words, Pat has always been Mr. Categorical Thinker. Now Linda is revealing more categories to flesh out the skeletons that have served so well for so long. The further back you stand, the broader the categories you see; the closer you get, the more detail is revealed.

When I look back through notes I've taken



in 13 years as a student of this, I can see all of the concepts and techniques that make up the new Courses,

buried in the previous teachings of Parelli Natural Horsemanship like hidden treasure. It's fascinating now to look at the tapestry that Pat and Linda continue to weave, and see the durable teachings, common threads woven through the fabric of time.

Lasting, effective paradigms, such as the Eight Principles that Pat developed for his first ever seminar 24 years ago, continue to provide a reliable framework that the new course curriculum falls back on again and again.

Don't act like a predator...

The first responsibility that Pat has identified for the human is, "Don't act like a predator; be mentally, emotionally and physically fit." Pat embodies this whenever he plays with a horse; the rest of us could spend a lifetime exploring all the rich possibilities of self-development that this one sentence offers.

Linda exposes things in our relationships that we've been disregarding... "If your horse doesn't come to meet you at the gate, that means something. Don't even pass 60, because it rarely gets better from there."

She exposes the reasons for the "vices" that the ridden horse exhibits... She gives us simulations that allow us to walk a minute or a mile in our horse's shoes, and then she asks, "NOW what do we think about behavioral problems in horses??!"

Linda also addresses something that is part of the human condition—dissatisfaction with the present moment. "Once we get past the horse's fear, next we have to get past the feeling horses have, that you only want him for one thing, which is to reach your goals with him."

The horse lives in the present moment; if his human lives in the future, full of angst over what has not yet been achieved, then horse and human are going to have a hard time finding a place to come together.

Engage the mind...

Using up the horse's physical energy won't earn me his interest and respect. When I want the body to do something, I need to try to engage the mind. If I just chase his body his mind will switch off, the lights will go out, and I will be left with only the physical shell. But if I can engage his mind, his eyes will sparkle back at me and the whole horse will give himself to what I ask.

Pat used to say, "A horse is an attitude on four feet." Linda says, "I am not riding his body, I am riding his attitude." Unless you resolve it, an attitude of resistance or opposition will affect everything else you seek to achieve.

Tell the horse he's wrong, and just like a human would, he'll worry or resist until he is so braced he can't get it right. Flexion—the physical posture and movement you want—deteriorates because the horse feels intimidated (emotionally scattered) or resistant (mentally set against you).





DRAGON SLAYING

At these courses, there are two classrooms for us to study in: one inside with a video screen and a white board, and one outside where the sky is so blue it's hard to take in and the short green grass is so green that you feel life slowing its frenetic pace.

In the outside classroom, squirrels demonstrate fluidity and grace almost too fast for the eye to follow; a family of raccoons make their daily rounds; a mole leaves sand castles outside my pen each morning; and soaring birds of prey swing in the impossible blue, casting their shadows on the curtains of Spanish moss hanging from the tree limbs.

There are dragons lurking in this idyllic setting... camouflaged among the gnarled tree trunks... hidden in the reeds by the still pond... They came here with us as part of our burden.

Linda is pioneering a new format, in which "teaching" takes place via classroom sessions and demonstrations; and "learning" takes place via hands on experimentation with the horses. This is about people learning how to help themselves.

Initially, the frustrations can outweigh the rewards. Somebody struggles with something and looks around for an excuse or someone to make it easier for them—but they are alone with their horse. It's about dealing with those unwanted emotions of frustration, impatience, anger, blame, uncertainty. It's not comfortable. Sometimes it's awkward, it's clumsy, it's new and it's strange. And if you were home alone, you might not persist. But here, there is something in the air.

So somebody pauses, takes a deep breath, and then tries again, a little differently. Whatever it is that's in the air comes slanting down through the foliage along with the sunshine. And ever so slowly, the rewards begin to outweigh the frustrations.

By the end of this, none of the students are the same person they were at the start. Each has faced a personal dragon or two, and in the process of learning how to keep fumbling until it shrinks or goes away, each person has grown lighter in subtle ways.

On the process of transformation

When you go home, how do you tell people what you learned? You can't, because it's internal, it's individual and it's non-transferable. It's not something that gets taught, so much as something you learn and become.

The horse knows what you know; he feels what you feel. If you have a heavy heart or a blaming attitude, he will reflect that; he can't help it.



The dog is called man's best friend, but he does not help us transform ourselves in that when we treat him poorly, he still loves us unconditionally. Not so the horse—he holds us accountable. With the horse we are on trial, every moment of every day.

Horses are a magnificent transformational metaphor for us because they reflect back to us our deepest truths and our darkest demons. The horse is our only judge, and reading his feedback on how we are doing becomes a fundamental skill.

Linda urges us to be gentle with ourselves in this process. Learning is a fragile thing that can only happen when we are open to it. We can't take in new information about how to be, until we are aware of and comfortable with how we are. If we live in defense of how we are, change will throw us into turmoil.

On the turmoil of uncertainty

Lots of people in this world are sure about what to do—and what they are sure to do is blowing their relationships up. If you are exploring and asking questions, then you are in a condition conducive to learning. You will continue to learn indefinitely until you stop asking questions.

In the process of personal development, we meet ourselves head on. At this point some of us think, "I don't know if I want to look this closely at myself..."

Sometimes a student might say, "I just want to do horsemanship, I'm not into developing myself." The question is, "What if developing yourself is horsemanship?" Pondering that question may redefine what horsemanship means to you.

THE SECRET LIFE OF HORSES

The secret life of horses goes on. If we can be humble enough, sure enough, gentle enough and firm enough, maybe we can feel what they feel, see what they see, until some day, the vision of true unity becomes attainable.

The challenge now is to try to decide, "Do I really care about the horse this much, or do I just own him?"

In Linda's words: "I don't just see a horse. I try to see a being. He is an attitude on four feet, and his attitude reflects to me how I am doing in my goal of developing myself to where he can truly turn loose to me as his leader and partner." 



A Horsemanship Experience BIGGER Than Anything You've Ever Dreamed...

Pat Parelli Centers COLORADO & FLORIDA

Psychology

Liberty

Communication

Confidence

Impulsion

Harmony

Collection

Additional information on courses can be found at parelli.com or by calling 1-800-642-3335.

Remember: Savvy Club members receive 35% off!

Exciting NEW curriculum for 2006!

2006 FLORIDA

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior

Jan 29–Feb 10, Mar 19–31,
Oct 29–Nov 10

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle Feb 12–24,
Apr 2–14, Nov 12–24

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Feb 26–Mar 10,
Apr 16–28, Nov 26–Dec 8

2006 COLORADO

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior

May 14–26, Jul 2–14, Aug 20–Sep 1

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle May 28–Jun 9,
Jul 16–28, Sep 3–15

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Jun 11–23,
Jul 30–Aug 11, Sep 17–29

Current course availability can be found at parelli.com. Most of our 2006 Courses are full. Please call 1-800-642-3335 to verify availability.

Our horsemanship is now a partnership and a conversation with much more listening going on on my part.

I go home forever changed. I'll never look at a mane, a flicked ear, the way a hoof moves and is placed, the way an eye looks, ever the same again.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME A PLACE TO GO TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATION. I AM SO LUCKY TO BE AMONG THE FIRST IN THE WORLD TO EXPERIENCE THIS CLASS. MY HORSE AND I THANK YOU FOR THE PARTNERSHIP AND LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE WE WILL REACH.

It has been a dream come true to be here for six weeks with my horse. These last six weeks have been better than I could have imagined. I will miss your instruction but will take it all with me and I know I will continue to grow and progress because of this experience.

The memories from here will be with me for the rest of my life. Thank you for the joy and the tears.

You'll never know how these past six weeks have empowered me.

I expected growth in my horsemanship skills but never expected how much impact this experience would have on my personal growth. The relationship between my horse and I has transformed into the beginnings of a strong and true partnership.

Thank you for the life changing experience you have given me by explaining the unexplainable!

What students are saying after the first 6-week class...

Thank you for the great foundation you have given to me as I start my journey with horses. I feel so fortunate to get this knowledge so early in my journey.

Your inspiration has given me new imagination that I will carry with me the rest of my days.

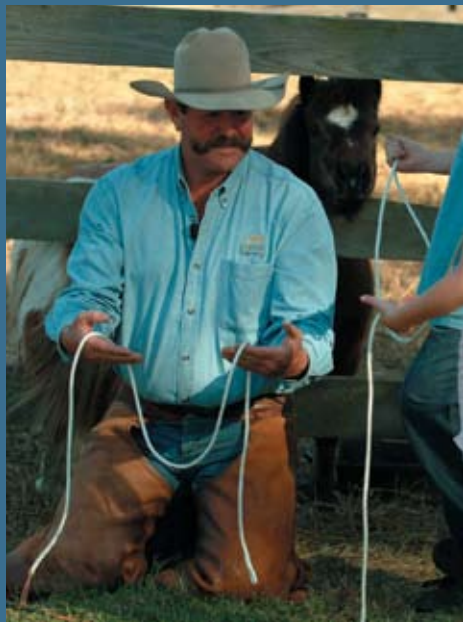
Thank you for being unstoppably natural, positive—and progressive! It's highly contagious... I feel empowered to go for nothing but the best.

Thank you for providing such a wonderful place for self discovery and being able to spend so much time with our horses.

The new format is right on and I'm truly grateful for this opportunity to participate in such a wonderful program.

Thank you for having the courage to create the new course format. You have been successful in empowering me to continue my horsemanship journey but more importantly you have helped me get in tune with my inner self!

What Knot to Know.



3. Open your hands (turn palms up) and point the tips of your fingers toward each other. Make sure the string is draped over your hands (like Pat's hands in the photo).



4. Keep the Step 3 position and move just your thumbs so they sit under the string in each hand. Bring your hands toward each other (with your left hand in front of your right hand) and notice that your fingertips are heading for the string draped over each hand.



1. Take your 6-foot Savvy String and hold it out in front of you in your fists with your right fist pointing upward and your left fist pointing downward.



2. Slide your fists along the string so that your hands are about 15 inches apart.



5. Take hold of the string in each hand and start pulling outward.



6. Voila! The Shoelace Knot. See how quickly you can tie this knot and next time you're at a tour stop, show off your speedy skills to Pat!

Meet the Team

Ever wonder how Pat and Linda are able to run a successful business, two ranches, teach and present their program around the world? They have a great support team to back them up. Here we feature some of those team members and ask them what their jobs are like. This issue meet: Jacque Favre from the ranch team, John Driscoll from the corporate office and Julia Ryman who many of you have met on tour.

Jacque Favre



John Driscoll



Julia Ryman



photo courtesy of Julia Ryman

Where are you originally from?

Jacque: Switzerland (the French part)

John: Warkwick, New York

Julia: Forestville, California USA

How were you introduced to Parelli?

Jacque: I first saw Pat on television. I thought, "If I start riding again, that is the way I want to do it." Then my mother got into the program, and I went to see a course she was taking.

John: I was living in Denver, Colorado and looking for work in the Durango area. I answered their ad for a Graphic Designer.

Julia: When I was about 10, Parelli Instructor Dave Lichman came to our barn in Sebastopol, California. My best friend Lisa and I participated in a clinic. I don't remember it changing my outlook on the way I was with horses, and without a program to follow I didn't stick with it. When I was 18, I was visiting Lisa. I watched her play with her horse. As she played at Liberty, I knew there was something special about this harmony. The tour came to my home town in Nampa, Idaho in 2002. At this point it pushed me over the edge, and I knew I wanted to be involved!

What's your job title, and how long have you worked for Parelli?

Jacque: I am now working with horse health on the ranch. I started on the ranch a year ago.

John: Graphic Designer/two years

Julia: My job title is Tour Retail Finance Leader. I've worked for Parelli since the end of September 2004. Previously I attended the 10 week school program in Pagosa Springs where I achieved my Level 2! After immersing myself in horsemanship, I asked if there was any way I could stay close to the source. That is when Neil and Sue offered me a position on tour.

What does that job entail?

Jacque: Taking care, feeding and watering the horses on the ranch.

John: Designing print materials from the calendar to packaging design for the new Level 2 to the layout for the tour display, tour advertising, Savvy Conference graphics and other day to day projects.

Julia: Well... Jack of all trades I am. My trusted sidekick, Carmen and I work closely leading the volunteers in the setup of the tour on Friday. Over the weekend I keep track of the finances and on Monday, report a

Continued on page 29.



www.winniescookies.com • 1-800-810-9466

A PARELLI PREFERRED PRODUCT

Works Like A Supplement, Tastes Like a Treat.

"I love Winnie's because they contain vital, organic ingredients and can be used as a whole food supplement. My horses LOVE them, too! I use them to build connection, desire and incentive."

—Linda Parelli

Winnie's Cookies are made from 100% certified organic, human quality ingredients. America's certified organic farmers guarantee chemical free ingredients.

Chemical based nutrition used in other supplements have absorption rates as low as 2-3% and leave toxic residue in the horses body. Until now equine supplements have been animal grade fillers with chemicals added for nutrition.

Winnie's are baked fresh and shipped daily to your home or barn. Winnie's philosophy is simple. When it comes to nutrition, Certified Organic foods are nature's whole, pure, and complete foods readily absorbed by the horse's system. Winnie's offers you that natural choice from nature's finest foods.

Each ingredient is selected for its vitamins, minerals, and amino acids, as well as other nutrients required for your animal's health and performance. The ingredients do not contain preservatives and provide nutrition as good as it gets naturally.





TRUE TESTAMENT

I live in Aberdeen Scotland with my horse Naz. Naz is a Bavarian Warmblood and is very skeptical as well as lacking a lot of confidence. When I first bought him at the end of 2002 I planned to do dressage with him but one thing was very clear—we didn't have much Harmony! He would spook, buck, rear, spin—you name it he did it and I usually ended up on the floor after he did it! I very quickly lost all my confidence and then I saw a Parelli Demo here in the UK. It changed my whole perspective on horses and I signed up there and then.

Two and a bit years down the line both Naz and I have made HUGE changes thanks to your program (of course Naz has made his changes because I have made changes!). We are about half way through Level 2 and now have a very special bond which gets stronger every day. I could never have dreamed of having such a partnership with Naz when I first got him—a true testament to the Parelli program.

I really want to thank you for sharing all your knowledge and for helping me find the fun in horses again.

—Ruth and Naz, Scotland

OFF THE TRADITIONAL PATH

You obviously get many people telling you how much their lives have changed since finding your program, and I would also like to add my HUGE gratitude to you for what you have done for horses and people throughout the world.

I had lost my confidence following a bad fall with my horse, which resulted in him being put down, and I was never the same outgoing person again. But one day a friend took me to see a demo which moved me to tears. People playing with their horses, smiling and in tune, at one with them. THAT is what I wanted more than anything, so I took a deep breath and stepped off the traditional path and on the Natural Horse-Man-Ship path.

Thank God I did! Now I positively enjoy EVERY aspect of my horses; and I am doing things I never thought possible, but more to the point, and the most important point, my horses are happier than they have ever been. I am almost at the end of Level 2 with my

first and best horse. I'm not saying it's been plain sailing, that people haven't scoffed at me wriggling my ropes, that I haven't felt fear, frustration and failure too, but shining through all of it is the conviction that THIS IS RIGHT—this is what my horse has been waiting for.

I wish that more people would change and see things through their horses eyes. Perhaps that's too close for comfort because they may see their own faults. I know I did, but I came through and am a different, better person for it.

—John Hardwick, UK



REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

On September 25, 2005, the first Parelli

Tournament in the upper Midwest took place, with Nita Jo Rush as Tournament Director/Coach. The tournament followed a two-day Level 2/3 clinic at the new Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Seven of the clinic students stayed on for the all-day event, and two other participants joined the group. The clinic coordinator, Sally Taylor, recruited a team of volunteers to set up the tasks for the Four Savvys, and participants competed in On-Line and Liberty before lunch and Freestyle and Finesse after lunch.

Sally, a Level 3 student, volunteered to go first to demonstrate the tasks with her Quarter Horse, Cody. Since the Tournament tasks were originally developed for Level 3 grads, Nita Jo made some modifications so that Level 2 students could compete, such as offering lower point awards if a student chose to substitute a trot for a canter. All the competitors chose among the tasks available and battled the clock to earn points. Prizes included lessons with Nita Jo, discounts on

future clinics, and Parelli merchandise.

Even more valuable to the students was the



photos courtesy of Susie Haubenstock



coaching they received from Nita Jo throughout the tournament. "I learned more about how your horse will mirror you," one student commented. "When I was calmer and slower, she was calmer and slower." "I learned that I broke the breakaway clips when we were stopping or backing up," another student said. "I must be leaning pretty heavy when I do that."

—Susie Haubenstock, USA



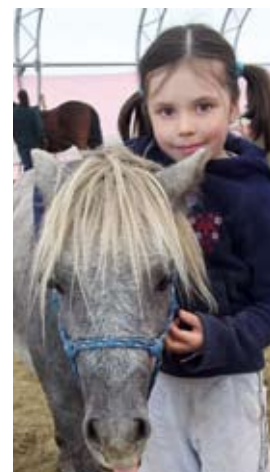
PERELLI KIDS

Ever wonder what it would have been like

to grow up with horses, naturally? If right from the 'get-go' you were understanding horses as prey animals? If the discussions at the dinner table were about how we can get better for our horses? Guess that's why it is so fun to experience Parelli through the eyes of our children. Buddy and I are blessed with three vivacious kids: J.D., Diquita, and Clay. We offer horseback riding trips in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. Our summers are full of horse activity, and our kids are right in the thick of things. I wanted to share some of the neat things that have happened with our Parelli kids this summer.

Diquita (Quita) five-year-old, Level 1 student

Diquita met Sammy this June in the back pen of her Nana and Papa's house. We had never really seen much of Minis before and were curious about this little guy. He was cute, but if you looked further under that overgrown forelock, you could see some wild little eyes looking back at you.



Diquita was also very protective of Sammy, keeping her cousins with less savvy out of the picture. And then a little girl's dream came true. Uncle Jimmy, seeing this was meant to be, gave her Sammy as a gift. Diquita is looking forward to assessing Level 1 with Don Halladay in the spring.



Riding with J.D. this summer has been quite enlightening as well. While riding along one day he said, "Why would you pull on the reins anyways? It doesn't stop their feet."



In the spring of 2005, J.D. received his red string from Don Halladay and Pat himself at Savvy Days in Vernon, BC. J.D. is having fun playing with his horse “Hombre” in Level 2. When J.D. walks out to the herd his horse happily greets him. Soon you see Hombre trotting after J.D. back to the ranch. Growing up with horses naturally, what could be more fun?

Devanee Cardinal playing in Level 3 with "Sweet Legacy"



If you've seen the 2005

Tour promotions you may recognize Leena Weston as the girl sending Rojhea over the buck fence. Leena is pictured here in Australia at a Jumping competition. She is a Level 3 graduate and regularly competes in show jumping around the country. This is her Level 3 horse Rain. She even has a Parelli Bridle on!!



photo courtesy of Carmen Smith



You're looking at the sticky notes and thinking, "I've seen before, but it didn't read like of the 'Then & Now ad' was sent Italian distributorship. Ciao!



Savvy Club Update

LEVEL 3 ASSESSMENTS

Many Level 3 graduates have professional goals or higher Level horsemanship goals. To enable the faculty of Parelli Natural Horsemanship at its source to get to know you and support you in these goals, ALL Level 3 Assessments will now be carried out in house via video/DVD at one of our two Parelli Centers (Florida or Colorado).

Currently there is no time frame for a new Level 3 Home Study Pack or Assessment, so continue to use all the resources you currently have.

Our Registered Parelli Professionals are naturally, a huge resource for you. All 3, 4 & 5 Star Professionals are fully qualified to coach and guide you in your journey towards attainment of your Green String and that "License to Learn" that Pat talks about.

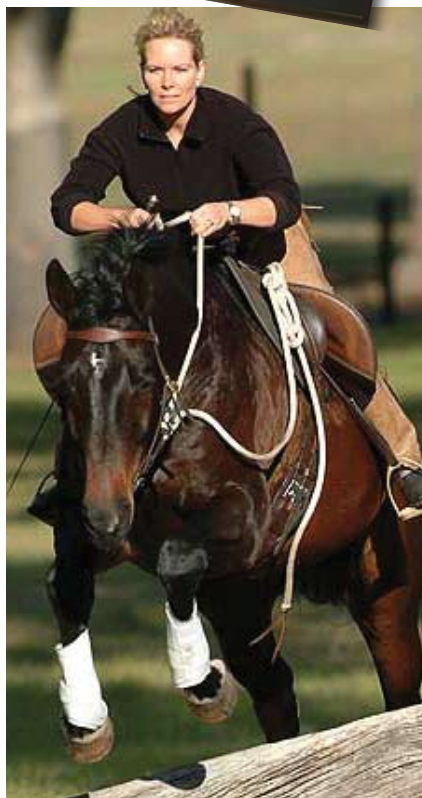
Here are the steps to take for your Level 3 Assessment, regardless of where you live in the world:

1. Before sending us your assessment, e-mail us at assessment@parelli.com so that we can advise you as to the correct postal address for shipping your assessment.
2. On arrival it will be registered. Our faculty will carry out evaluation and coaching with the support of Pat and Linda Parelli. This service will be provided out at no charge. Please allow a 6-week time frame to receive your results.
3. In mailing your Assessment video/DVD, use of Fed Ex or UPS is advisable (so you have a tracking number).
4. Please send COPIES of your assessment papers and COPIES of your video/DVD, never your originals. Please note we return ONLY your paperwork to you, and we keep your video/DVD on file at the Center.
5. For those of you who only have a few tasks left to complete your Level 3, e-mail us as above and let us know which tasks you have left. We will advise you on how to film your resubmits. Then follow the directions as above.

We look forward to this opportunity to get to know you better. We value your commitment and dedication to our Program and to your horse-human relationship.

Please feel free to e-mail your questions regarding official Level 3 Assessments to us anytime.

—Neil Pye, Dean of the Parelli University



ARE YOU RECEIVING YOUR DISCOUNTS ON THE WEB?

When completing an order in the Parelli web shop, make sure that the system has recognized you as a Savvy Club Member. When you are properly recognized, the upper right hand corner will say, "Welcome (your user name). You are a Savvy Club Member." You will also see some items—*kits and DVDs are some of the items regularly discounted for members*—with a red Savvy Club Price. The log in page explains the steps you need to take to make sure you are recognized. If you have followed all of the steps and still have problems, please e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com or call 1-800-642-3335.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH PARELLI E-NEWS

Parelli e-News is our official weekly newsletter. Find out about special offers, Tour updates, RFD-TV programming, new releases, tips and more. Call 1-800-642-3335 to update your e-mail information with us to have e-News conveniently delivered to your In Box. Some e-mail programs do have spam blockers that prevent delivery. Don't worry! E-News is updated every Thursday at www.parelli.com.

HELPING US IMPROVE

Occasionally during the manufacturing process, your monthly DVDs or magazines end up with slight problems, glitches or other warranty issues. Please call our customer service department at 1-800-642-3335, Monday–Thursday 7:30am–5pm (Mountain Time) to report these types of problems. We will be happy to replace the defective merchandise. By calling promptly, you help us to identify problems and improve our products.



TOUR STOP ADMISSION

We ask that Savvy Club members reserve their seats at Tour stops by requesting a ticket for themselves and anyone who is attending on their membership. You are helping us keep a head count to ensure everyone gets a seat.

We have a new way for you to request your free tickets. Log

in to the Savvy Club web site (www.parellisavvyclub.com), click on the new link for tickets and fill out the online form. Please note you can only request as many member tickets as the number of people on your membership. In addition to your member tickets, you can request up to five buddy passes for friends. If you are having problems logging in, please call the customer service department at 1-800-642-3335 or e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com.



DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT & MEMBERSHIP CARD

Requesting tickets will get you in free to all the Parelli Tour stops, but don't forget your Parelli Passport and membership card. Your passport can be stamped at the Savvy Club booth with a unique stamp at every Tour stop or major Parelli event. Document your journey! And your card will be swiped to add your special Savvy Club member discount to your purchases at the show.

LIFETIME SAVVY CLUB MEMBERSHIPS

Due to the incredible support shown by members, we can not accept additional Lifetime memberships. All existing Lifetime Members are part of a 'special' group of individuals who have supported the very foundation of Pat and Linda's Savvy Club. We value your support and involvement in our journey, and look forward to sharing the future with you.



SAVVY CLUB FORUM: A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT AND LIKE MINDS

Have you visited the Savvy Club Forum yet? If not, you're missing out on joining a fantastic community. Directions to access the Forum are listed to the right. Over 5,000 members have registered to use the Forum. Find supportive, friendly folks from all over the country (and some from other countries!).

Topics vary and include: Horse Photos (where members share pictures of their perfect partners), Fusion Saddle, How was your session? How did you get started and why? You know you do Parelli when... Natural Feeding and Health Care and more! Plus if there's anything new going on in Parelli land this is sure to be the first place to hear about it.

One of the most extraordinary instances of generosity we've seen was when a young woman was going to have to cancel her membership due to the fact that college tuition was looming. The thread exploded into over three pages in a couple of hours. Members were collaborating on how to provide her with a 'scholarship' to keep her in the Club. They were successful in pooling a dollar or two here and there to support her.

And that is just one example of the support you can find on the Forum. During Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma members peppered the Forum with all kinds of new topics: volunteer/rescue efforts, web site links to help support victims, updates from members still living in the region...

The Parelli Savvy Club Forum is a growing community of support. Take a few minutes to read what other members have to say and you may find yourself part of a new family you never knew existed.



Savvy Club Forum

The Forum is a great resource for Savvy Club members only. While it is not a place to find training information (that's what the Parelli Program, Virtual Instructor and Parelli Professionals are for), it is a place to meet fellow Savvy Club members, share stories and chat about everything Parelli. Includes a special Classifieds section. To log on and check out the Forum, just log-in to parellisavvyclub.com. Click on the "Savvy Club Forum" link at the top of the page and then select "Register" from the top menu. This will take you through a few easy registration steps. Now you're set to explore existing posts or create your own! And when you log into the Savvy Club web site, check out the member locator option!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This is your Club and we want you to contribute! Send us your home movies of savvy or fun moments with your horse for us to share with other Savvy Club members on the monthly DVDs. Videos must be no longer than 10 minutes. Send your tapes to Parelli; Attn: Savvy Club Video Department; PO Box 3729 or 56 Talisman, Suite 6; Pagosa Springs; Colorado 81147.

Do you have stories or photos you'd like to share, too? Send them in and we may publish them in Savvy Times. Mail can be sent to the address above, Attn: Savvy Times, or you can e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com.



My dad showed pictures from my 4H project to Linda Parelli and some people at the Savvy Club tent at the 2005 Savvy Conference and they said they'd like to see it and maybe use a picture in Savvy Times Magazine. I didn't participate in the County 4H Horse Show because the events don't follow Parelli Natural Horsemanship principles. I decided to do a 4H Horse related Project. I made a book about the Seven Games and it won a Blue ribbon at the Goodhue County Fair. I recently passed my Level 1 Assessment with Parelli Instructor Jinita Hayes. I beat my dad by finishing my 21 minute pushing passenger lesson 15 minutes ahead of him. At first I was a little nervous, but after I started trotting I didn't want to stop. The Seven Games have really helped me understand my horse better.

Thanks to Pat and Linda Parelli, Jinita Hayes, Mom, Dad, and my horse Mariah.

—Anna Marie Vincent



Pat Parelli & his stallion, Casper

A Conversation between GinnySue & Bud Ross

Late August 2005 I made a return call to a fellow student in California. Answering he heard, "Good morning... Bud Ross? This is GinnySue calling." He kindly replied with genuine joy in his voice, "Why, hello honey... how are you?" That is how this conversation started.

We visited about his recent Level 1 pass and the details for his Parelli Award Presentation. His requests were rather simple, insisting that the string spell out "SAVVY!" As I rang him in early October to confirm shipping details, we had unique vacation stories to share. He and his wife, Francis headed out for a Western states tour. In route to Santa Fe he was pleasantly surprised to discover a missed turn in Montrose brought them past the Pat Parelli Center in Pagosa Springs. He could not drive by without taking that heart-racing, breath-taking winding drive up to the ranch where he had recently invested quality time. This was a great opportunity to show his wife where he had been. Little did he realize what was going on... The Savvy Conference was in full swing. Believing that the three-day weekend had already come to pass, he was thrilled just to know he was present to feel the energy that so strongly filled the air. They drove through gazing in amazement and then headed out turning toward New Mexico. "Oh!" I said with thrill in my voice. "Would you believe I traveled to Santa Fe right after the conference to visit Carolyn Hall Young (featured in October, 2005 Savvy Times)?" We discovered in a matter of days our paths had crossed twice, and we didn't even know it!

"Bud," I asked, "How did you find Parelli?" I could hear his smile as he began to explain. While leafing through an issue of Western Horseman over a year ago, he spotted the yellow "Post-it Note" ad—pages of problems, struggles and issues that are unfortunately so common with normal horse folks. He dialed Parelli for the free DVD that was advertised. That DVD was all he needed to realize he needed to know more. He contacted the office to find himself soon connected with Parelli course coordinator, Aurora. She filled his request to join the Parelli team at the Colorado ranch for an educational experience of a lifetime. Signed... sealed... delivered. He was packing his bags (and trailer)!

Having been with horses since a child, he had years of experience. As a teen he worked for various ranches and would ride with the wagon train. Working cows was in his blood. Cowboy life evolved to rodeo life, which he truly loved. At age 21 Bud was off to serve our country. The year was 1950 and young Bud was an active soldier in the Air Force. "Did I mention rodeo?" he asked me. While serving, he rang his mother and requested

she send his supplies: bareback rigging, cowboy boots and spurs. Bareback bronc riding got him through the weekends and made him money!

In December, 1954 he completed his service and the following month married his love, Francis whom he'd met at a hamburger/malt shop. She had been raised on a small farm in the town where he was stationed and was working for an insurance company. I asked with a giggle, "Did she take a policy out on you as a bronc rider?" He laughed back, "We didn't have the sense to!"

Together they relocated to California. Bud joined a steel company and at that time said a most difficult farewell to his wild bronc riding days knowing that their first child was on the



way. Bud worked by day and studied by night to earn his own contractor's license. He then opened his own steel business, Ross Rebar Co. Inc. and has been successful with that for the past 27 years. Those successful years did not come without hardships and choices.

In 1987, his business allowed a down payment on their own ranch. Slowly their cattle herd was built to 100 head. His wife helped support this dream come true. In 1992 a recession hit California hard, and by 1995 they found no other option but to sell the ranch. They moved to a small house near Los Angeles and called that home. Times were tough for all.

It didn't take long to get horses back into this horse lover's life. He and Francis purchased a house that was built by the late trick roper, Monty Montana. Mrs. Montana included Monty's Paint gelding and a pony as "part of the sale." Bud has since added a Palomino Quarter Horse and adopted a young wild filly from the BLM. He is having a ball starting that filly out naturally!

This history brings us up to date—Bud's newfound venture with Parelli. During Bud's stay at the ranch, Aurora from the office set out to find him—she wanted to meet him personally. He was so impressed with her efforts and those

of the entire organization. He shared with me the powerful statement "birds of a feather flock together" which he has tried to mirror throughout his life. That statement left me to ponder the thought... to even notice a particular "flock," one must share similar qualities.

When I asked about highlights of his course he quickly responded, "Funny you should ask!" He shared with me the "best bit of advice" he'd ever had while working with horses. He was riding in a halter and lead with his carrot stick for support. As they came to a log, Bud's horse turned away, repeatedly causing frustration for both. Not realizing he was being watched, a voice tactfully and firmly stated, "BUD, THINK LIKE A LEADER." He backed off, calmed his mind and took time to think. Walking back to the log, they crossed over it confidently. Bud calmed down and so did his horse. A most heartfelt thank-you to that voice... Nita Jo Rush. He will never forget that experience.

The knowledge shared at the Pat Parelli Center was amazing. He found such simple words creating rapid awareness in himself. This awareness has affected his everyday life. Back off and come back to reality: the TRUTH.

It was no surprise for me to discover and confirm that Bud is what Pat calls "the whole enchilada" kind of person. He ordered all three Home Study programs at once as he signed up for his course and the Savvy Club. Either way we go, one taco at a time or the whole enchilada... if our commitment is there, results are within reach.

Bud's knowledge base continues to expand. He chooses to lead by example and welcomes questions. Retirement is looking great for Bud. At the young age of 75, his health is good and his determination is strong. He goes into the office two days a week and has plenty of time for his passions. When not at the office, I would bet you could find him in his barn playing with horses or working in his leather shop creating saddles, bridals, breast collars, spur straps, etc. with a Parelli DVD playing!

Bud is accomplished both personally and professionally. With a successful marriage of 50 years and counting, Bud stated that it takes two "grown-ups" to bring such success. They have two daughters and now enjoy four grandchildren. His desire and dedication to continue to learn on this journey of life is inspiration for all. As Aurora shared with me after meeting him personally, "Bud has a sparkle in his eye which you would normally see in a young boy."

P.S. An update on Carolyn Hall Young... as of her last appointment, she is stable & life is grand! 🐾



Thanks for the new Level 2 assessment; it clearly aims to assess horse behavior and psychology—and the student's ability to read that, have a happy horse and to know basics of safe recreational riding.

1. Since the "new" Level 1 asks for follow the rail, for example, why not build on that in the Level 2 assessment? Follow the rail/trail is so important for leadership from the saddle and for the impulsion programs. It seems to me to be a good thing to include—making it a little more challenging than in the Level 1.
2. Since Carrot Stick riding is so effective in helping humans learn natural riding position and dynamics, to have an independent seat, and to not over-use their reins, why no Carrot Stick riding in the assessment? There is Carrot Stick riding in the Level 1 "Level 2 Prep" DVD and Program Guide, why not build on that in the Level 2 assessment?
3. Since many people want to learn to ride bareback and it is an excellent way to learn how to have an independent seat, why not any bareback riding in the new Level 2?

1 Unfortunately, I've found that people follow the rail and have horses who are crooked in the ribs, or they tolerate impulsiveness rather than fix it. Follow the rail is a great thing, but solving impulsiveness is a more important thing. People need to also get more creative with their riding, which they tend to do once they have impulsion. This Level is very much about not tolerating problems, but fixing them. That then gives them the flexibility to do what they want to do and fix whatever comes up. There is nothing to prevent them from doing follow the rail at a higher level if they've got all of the above in check.

2 Most people whack their horses around with the stick, or they use it like reins to hold the horse back or force it into doing something. We're moving bridleless riding to Level 3, where Carrot Stick riding becomes an important step. In Level 2 it is more about supporting the rein or the leg so they can develop more responsiveness. It's not a thing to assess in Level 2.

3 Bareback riding is something a lot of people have big fears about. The idea of the program is to keep people 'in the game.' Many people need to know how to have more control (via psychology) and more creativity with their horse in their own situation. We've canvassed a lot of students to find out where their hold ups were, and they basically said: bareback riding, carrot stick riding, flying lead changes, turn on the haunches, and trailer loading. For the most part they were held back by their fears, lack of athleticism, facilities or trailer! This program is set up so that no matter where you live, when you started, or what you have (trailer, property, arena, etc.), you will have a lot of success with your horse in your situation. Those who want more will find it in Level 3. That's the new dividing line.





Pat Parelli Center Pagosa Springs, Colorado
Building Series: TITAN® Building Size: 110' W x 160' L
Application: Riding Arena



www.coverall.net • 1-800-268-3768

A P A R E L L I P R E F E R R E D P R O D U C T

Home on the Cover-All Range

Linda and Pat Parelli have searched far and wide for the best riding arena. After careful consideration, they chose Cover-All.

"I've always disliked metal and wood coverings for arenas. There's nothing worse than the rat-a-tat-tat sounds during a rainstorm and metal clanking noises, especially when you're training," says Pat. "Design is critical when it comes to making a decision on an indoor riding arena, all aspects of architectural appeal should be considered in order to make the best decision."

"Did I mention how great the acoustics are? It's amazing how the shape of the building and material allow the sound to be clear and crisp; communication is something that we're all about."

"The Cover-All is cool in the summer and warm in the winter. This ability to adapt to temperatures is really important. It provides perfect protection from the wind, and the snow just slides off in the winter. Our Cover-All is what I call a 'Savvy Building'."

—Pat Parelli



COVER-ALL AND TITAN ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF COVER-ALL BUILDING SYSTEMS INC/ STEEL TUBING SUPPLIED BY ALLIED

Meet the Team continued from page 21.

summary of the weekend to our corporate office. Then we pack up our RV and head to the next venue.

Give an example of what your typical work day is like:

Jacque: Feed and water 50+ horses, fill up the feed bins and the water troughs for the customers. In the afternoon go and give hay to a hundred horses in all the pastures and then get set for the next day. During the week there are two of us to do all this. On the weekend when the other person has a day off I have all this to do by myself. That is a busy day!

John: There are usually any number of assignments going on at once from long term projects to a tour ad that is due today.

Julia: A typical weekend: up at 6:30AM on Friday. Begin unloading the retail semi, set up drinks and breakfast, examine the area we have to set up in. Set up volunteers at 10AM and jump in! By about 6PM we are all set up and ready for the show. Saturday morning: six o'clock again! The doors open at eight. I set the volunteers up who will be working on the retail floor, and the day begins. The show is over by five. We are done with work and eating dinner by eight. Usually the entire team meets and we have a BBQ cookout in the horse barn. Sunday: repeat, but add in tear down, and a very late night of counting money and entering data into a spreadsheet. Reports have to be in by Monday morning. On Monday we bank and Fed Ex all the paperwork from the show back to the office in Colorado. Tuesday–Thursday we travel to the next venue, rest, sight see whatever we happen to be passing by, make copies and purchase supplies for the next show! Sounds crazy huh? Well it is! Intense for three days, then four days of more laid back work.

Are you studying the Parelli Program? If yes, please give us some details of your journey and horsemanship goals. If no or in addition to your Parelli studies, what are your hobbies/interests?

Jacque: Yes, I am working on my Level 3. My goal is simply to play and ride at Liberty. I love that magical moment when, at Liberty, the horse

offers to be with you, when you get mentally connected. My interest: change the world... show how being "natural" brings the best results.

John: No, horses are a full time project, and I have a lot of other interest that keep me busy: hiking, backpacking, skiing, painting, live music and playing percussion.

Julia: Of course I am studying the program! I would never take back my decision to do Parelli; it's the best and in my opinion ONLY natural horsemanship program. It can take anyone at any level and leave them safe, secure, playful and enjoying their horses at a completely new level. In September Pat gave me my green string, so my goals of being a professional are well on their way. I would like to return to Idaho and teach when the time is right, and I become certified. Horses seem to be all I have ever done, all through high school, but I also enjoy photography, camping, 4-wheeling, and recently knitting.

What's the best/worst part of your job?

Jacque: The best is to be with horses and getting more experience. The worst: time is going too fast.

John: The best part is our location in beautiful southwest Colorado. It's nice to be working for a company that is having such a positive impact on the horse world. I'm having a hard time coming up with the "worst part" which is a good sign!

Julia: Well, those can be exactly the same things at times! The best part is the traveling. This tour season we've driven over 30,000 miles and visited 29 different states. I never knew our country was so beautiful! It has opened doors to traveling the world someday and also allowed me to realize that opportunity is at my fingertips! The worst part about traveling is that some times I will go a month without seeing my horse. Another bad part about this job is that you don't have a place to call home or a community to fall back on. On the contrary, for all the traveling we do we never have to pack our bags—we haul our entire house around everywhere we go!! I have to say the Parelli team is my community. It's a built in support group! 🐾



Robert Miller, DVM

Celebrating the “Revolution in Horsemanship”

by Cynthia McFarland

Fifty plus years ago, a young Robert Miller was starting four- and five-year-old colts in a rather unconventional way. Forget the accepted practice of snubbing a green horse tight to a post, “sacking” him out, and finally climbing on for what was guaranteed to be a wild ride.

Instead, Miller used no force or intimidation, but relied on gentleness, quietly working in a round pen with the colt until the animal understood what was expected of him. The results were “no fireworks” and a much calmer, happier horse. Miller, however, didn’t want any of his cowboy friends to know what he was doing.

“It wasn’t ‘macho’ and I was embarrassed,” he admits. “I didn’t want anyone to see me doing it because I was rubbing these horses and baby-talking them. I was fumbling my way through what you’d call Natural Horsemanship when I was just in my twenties, before I became a veterinarian. I’d have given anything to have had some direction back then.”

Sure enough, the direction came and as fate would have it, Miller himself played a part in what he now terms the “revolution in horsemanship.”

Miller graduated in 1951 from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry, obtaining his veterinary medicine degree from Colorado State University in 1956. At a college rodeo he met Deborah, a California native who happened to be one of the nation’s top intercollegiate barrel racers. They married shortly after Miller started his own group practice in California’s Conejo Valley in 1957.

Although the practice treated all manner of animals (Miller once treated a whale and a hummingbird on the same day), there were eventually six veterinarians on board. Dr. Miller agreed to be the one who focused primarily on horses.

He went on to practice veterinary medicine for over thirty years, from 1956 until retiring in 1987. During this time Miller saw great improvements in practice, perhaps the most major being the use of tranquilizers and chemical restraints, which made it much easier and safer to handle horses for procedures.

It was Miller who made “imprint training” a household word among horse owners. His theory that newborn foals, handled immediately and in specific ways, would develop into trusting, gentle, respectful horses has been proven countless times



2005
Savvy Conference
honors
Robert M. Miller D.V.M.

by horsemen and women around the world. In a career filled with accomplishments, this remains one of his most outstanding contributions.

His experiences handling young foals and what he learned while starting those headstrong colts many years earlier stuck with him. Then he saw clinician Billy Linfoot give a demonstration in the 1960s, taking a captured mustang and riding it within 30 minutes. In the late 1970s, he attended his first formal “natural horsemanship” clinic with Ray Hunt, and that stoked his enthusiasm further. “If this ever catches on, it will be big,” he thought then. Not long after that, Miller met a young horseman named Pat Parelli.

TELL US ABOUT THE FIRST TIME YOU MET PAT.

“Soon after I attended the Ray Hunt clinic, I went to Bishop Mule Days, where I saw Pat Parelli riding a mule colt. Pat was about 25 years old at the time. I watched him for about half an hour and realized I was watching tremendous talent. My wife and I ended up watching him for about 1-1/2 hours.

“Pat never stopped talking; but while he was talking to the crowd, he was simultaneously communicating with the colt. His multi-tasking impressed me. I thought, ‘If this guy sticks with this, he’ll be one of the world’s greatest horsemen by the time he’s 40 years old.’ That was probably one of the best prognoses I ever made.

“Pat and I talked afterwards, and I called him about a week later. I said I wanted to come write an article on him for Western Horseman. Called ‘A New Look at Old Methods,’ it turned into a three-part series that helped launch Pat’s career. It really exposed him to the Western riding world.”

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER PAT’S ROLE IN THE NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP REVOLUTION?

“He’s been one of the key figures. He was one of the earliest clinicians to start teaching these methods. Pat saw the potential and he had a natural aptitude. By the mid-1980s, there were a half-dozen well-known clinicians under way. Ray Hunt was the first clinician I knew about and of course, without Tom Dorrance, there wouldn’t have been Ray Hunt. These were the pioneers.

“The incredible thing is that these guys—Tom Dorrance, Ray Hunt, Pat Parelli—are all from the cowboy background. This is amazing, because if you look at cowboy horsemanship, it’s really ‘native horsemanship.’ Generally speaking, most cowboys are good riders, but not skilled horsemen. American Western horsemanship was laughed at by the classical horsemen in Europe, and I think Hollywood had a lot to do with that because you see horrible horsemanship in old Western movies. Who would have thought that the most humane and scientifically based horsemanship that would reach out to horsemen all over the world would have come out of the cowboy culture? But it did!

“Pat is the only clinician out there who is a formally-trained teacher. He’s a professional teacher and this has been a great asset to him in teaching both horses and people. He has natural ability, and he also knows the psychology of learning. I think this is a great advantage he has over some other clinicians.”



HOW DO YOU SEE LINDA’S ROLE IN THIS NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP REVOLUTION?

Dr. Miller with wife, Debby

“Linda has been tremendously important in Pat’s success and she has played a dual role. His success as an influential horseman was well under way when they met. In fact, she was one of the ‘converts.’ Pat’s enthusiasm was horsemanship, but Linda brought two things—a business background, and a huge audience of people who wouldn’t have otherwise identified with Pat because they just saw him as a cowboy. With her background in English horsemanship and dressage, Linda broke down the prejudice that exists between the English world and the Western world.

“One of the beautiful things about the Natural Horsemanship movement is that the barriers between English and Western are breaking down. You can see Pat doing dressage maneuvers. Western people are starting to look at classical techniques, and classical riders are starting to look at reining and Western riding. It’s a blending of the cultures of horsemanship. We’re all working with the same animal. How you dress, the hat you wear, or whether you say ‘canter’ or ‘lope’ doesn’t make a bit of difference. We have so much to learn from each other. In the next twenty years, you’re going to see the barriers breaking down even more between English and Western cultures.”

WERE YOU SURPRISED TO BE AN HONORED GUEST AT THE 2005 SAVVY CONFERENCE?

“Absolutely! It was completely unexpected. We knew we were going to have a booth for our books, but when I saw the banner in the arena, I was so surprised. Pat has referred to me as one of his mentors, and I’ve heard people say that Pat’s

learned a lot from me. I'm pleased with that, but I've learned far more from Pat Parelli than he ever learned from me.

"Savvy Conference is such a tremendous emotional experience. One of the high spots this year was when Caton rode that reining horse. There were tears everywhere in the audience. People understand how much Pat has dedicated himself to this young man, and they identify with it."

WHAT SETS APART THOSE IN THE NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP MOVEMENT FROM OTHER HORSE PEOPLE?

"At Savvy Conference you can tell this is not just an ordinary audience. People who are into Natural Horsemanship are not ordinary people. These are people who by nature are kind and empathetic; and this is not true of all horse people.

"At 78 years of age, what keeps Debby and me traveling, doing clinics and attending clinics in the Natural Horsemanship movement, is that it restores your faith in humanity. The people who are attracted to this kind of horsemanship are not on a big ego trip or looking for control of the horse in an aggressive manner. Their skill levels are not all the same, but they all have the same kind manner."

HAVE YOU SEEN NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP CHANGE THE WAY HORSES ARE HANDLED SINCE YOU BEGAN PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE?

"It's been a dramatic change! Natural Horsemanship is a step forward in civilization. Unfortunately, the news media tends to focus on the negative for the same reason people slow down to watch an accident—morbid fascination. It has a very negative affect on our society. But this revolution in horsemanship is such a completely, totally positive thing. It helps me not get discouraged with human nature because I realize there are an awful lot of good, kind people in the world. I can't think of any other arena where such positive qualities are manifested as well as they are in the Natural Horsemanship movement."

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

"Debby and I will be married fifty years in 2006. One of our

compatibilities is that we are both great animals lovers and have great empathy for the horse. She was a successful barrel racer, both in collegiate competition and professional afterwards. Her theories of starting barrel horses were very much in accord with Natural Horsemanship, although we didn't call it that then. When we met, we were both on the same path and had similar ideas about training that weren't the way people were training horses then.

"We have two grown children: Mark is in the computer business, and Laurel is a travel and food writer."

DO YOU HAVE A MISSION IN LIFE AND HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE YOU WERE A PRACTICING VETERINARIAN?

"I never thought I'd ever retire from practice because I loved my career so much. But I retired 18 years ago at 60 years of age, in order to get aboard the Natural Horsemanship movement. In my twenties I never thought it would become so accepted and become such a success. But when I saw this happening, I decided to quit practice and devote the rest of my life to encouraging this movement. I want to see a better deal for the horse while I'm alive, not 50 years from now. I'd have to say one of the greatest successes of my life is to see this happen. It's by no means complete, but you can't stop it now!" 🐾



Pat & Dr. Robert M. Miller with Scamp and foal Presto at the first Conference with Pat & Linda in 1994 called "The Natural Horseman's Rendezvous" in California.

"I wrote The Revolution in Horsemanship with Rick Lamb because I wanted people to know that if they don't get aboard the Natural Horsemanship movement, they're going to be left behind. The book describes how the horse's mind works, how horses learn and how the psychological training methods of great horsemen past and present allow the rest of us to achieve extraordinary results, not only with our horses but with ourselves. The signed hardcover book can be ordered directly through me, by going online to www.robertmmiller.com; and the softcover can be purchased at most bookstores, or from the same website.

"Right now I'm working on my 15th book. It's targeted to the clinician and people who are already following Natural Horsemanship, and basically explains scientifically why it works. People know it works, but they need to have a scientific explanation of WHY it works. This takes the mystery out of it. It's not magic or hypnotism or a special halter or stick. Anyone who wants to learn can do this."



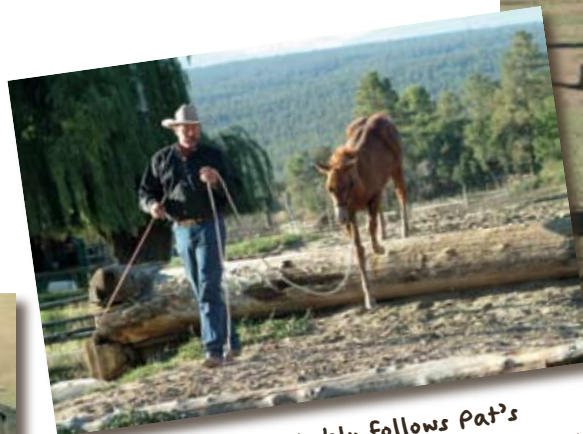
Growing Up with SMART SEVEN

For the past five issues in Savvy Times, we have been following the adventures of Smart Seven and his experiences growing up as a foal with Pat Parelli.

Here, Seven is two-and-a-half months old and Pat decides to take him out for his first "guided tour" of the many obstacles in the Colorado Parelli Center playground.



Pat guides Seven through his first squeeze between giant tractor tires.



Seven comfortably follows Pat's leadership on a loose line jumping up and down the box jump.



Pat plays the Friendly Game, walking Seven through a hula hoop!

Pat rides Seven's mom, Scamp, over the whole playground followed by Seven and the minnies, Barnum (paint) and Bailey.



With gentle and clear leadership, Pat helps Seven take his first jump over two barrels.



Time for Friendly Games after leaping onto the tire—filled to the brim with dirt to make a platform.



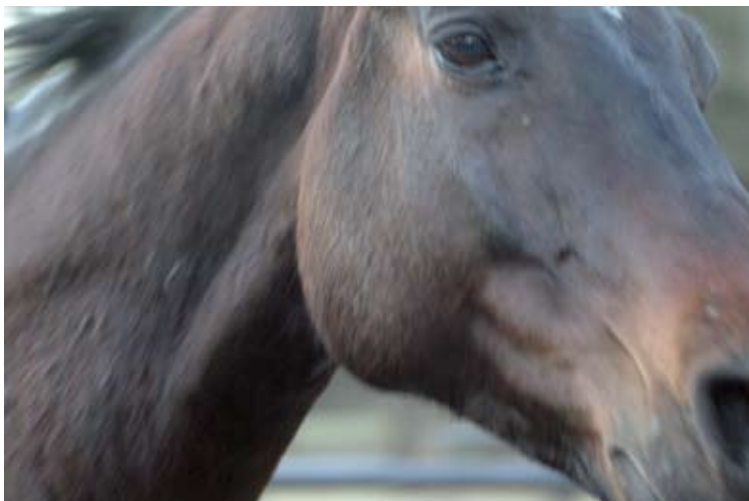
Pat takes advantage of every opportunity to prepare Seven for future tasks like trimming and shoeing



With no signs of fear, Seven happily follows Pat in and out of the trailer.

The Story of Remmer

by Linda Parelli



In the mid nineties, Pat suggested that I start looking for a new horse. Siren, my lovely Thoroughbred, needed an understudy. So I decided I might want a Warmblood because of my interest in dressage and jumping, and began to keep my eyes open for a prospect.

At the Parelli Center Open House in June 1997, a woman asked me if I'd be interested in a young Dutch Warmblood she wanted to sell because he was too much horse for her. She said that he was trying to kill her—and she thought he'd be perfect for me! I asked what she wanted and she said she was told she could get around \$30,000 for him. I gulped and thanked her for the offer but said that I could not afford that kind of money. I suggested she send a video or pictures and maybe there were some students who might be interested. Nothing was sent to me and I forgot all about it.

In September, one of our instructors was running his first two-day clinic at our place and I went out to see how it was going. As I sat down next to Neil Pye (Dean of the Pat Parelli Centers) he pointed into the arena and said, "Have you seen that big horse out there?"

I looked into the arena and saw a big dark bay leaping in the air. He was such a handful that the instructor had to keep taking him from his owner because he was out of control. I was instantly attracted!

Neil asked me what breed I thought he was and I couldn't tell. So I sidled up to the woman who seemed to be his owner and asked, "Is that your horse?"

"Yes," she replied, with a bit of a worried look on her face.

"What breed is he?"

"Dutch Warmblood and he's for sale," she said, all in the same breath.

"I'm interested," I responded.

"Well, I hope you're very interested because his blanket and papers are in the truck and I'd rather not leave with him!"

I smiled and she continued, "This is the horse I told you about at your Open House. Do you remember?"

I didn't remember. At that time Remmer, short for Remembrance, was three and a half years old. His mother was an Appendix Quarter Horse that was mostly Thoroughbred and his father was the leading sire of Dutch Warmbloods for dressage, "Rampal" of Iron Springs Farm in Illinois.

At the lunch break, We arranged to turn him loose in the 100' round corral so I could see how he moved. Until





now, the main goal was to get him to stand still! He was spectacular as he galloped and bucked and pranced around full of adrenaline. I really liked him; so I asked Carol what she wanted for him. "Well, as I said last time, I'm told I can get around \$30,000 for him..."

At that moment it all came back to me! I was so disappointed because I knew there was no way I could afford anything even close to that, and I felt terrible that I'd led her into thinking I might buy the horse.

"I'm sorry," I said. "I'm sure he's worth it, but I cannot afford that kind of money."

She stopped and thought for a bit and then asked, "What can you afford? I want you to have him."



Remmer, Siren
& Linda

We sealed the deal at \$5,000 cash. I couldn't believe it.

Carol then asked if she could have one of our lease horses for the rest of the clinic because she didn't want to deal with Remmer any more! She went to lunch and I started playing with him. He tuned in immediately! After about an hour I saddled him and rode him around the corral. It all went pretty smoothly so I opened the gate and rode by the arena. Carol's jaw dropped when she saw us, but then she smiled. "I shouldn't be surprised," she said. "I knew you were meant for each other."

I took Remmer to my pasture and turned him out with Siren and two young Andalusian-cross mares, River and Nova. Siren immediately attacked Remmer and drove him to the other end of the pasture, where he pretty much kept him pinned down for two weeks before allowing him to join his little herd. They then became the best of mates and actually played together every morning. Up until then I'd never seen Siren play with another horse.

Several weeks later, we shot the video "Free Style Riding."

Because I was operating the camera, we had Carol ride Remmer. It's funny to see him in that video, because he looks and moves so differently now! Then we left for our tour in Australia, and I didn't play with him again until the following summer.

Over the next few years I did very little with him since I was teaching full time, touring, running the marketing department and writing the Levels program packs. I relied on Siren for tour demos because I could literally pull him out of the pasture and perform without much practice at all. But I started taking Remmer on the road with us and introduced him to audiences by turning him loose during my sessions. He quickly became the center of attention with his funny antics which were usually directed at Siren... pay backs!

With this gradual approach to his development, we were perpetually at Level 2 until about 2002. By this time Siren was turning 20 years old and I retired him from demonstrations, not because he wasn't up to speed anymore, but because while I still had him I wasn't developing Remmer. My focus then became Remmer's trip to Level 3 and beyond. Siren is now 24 years old and having a great time playing stallion to two of our old mares at our Florida Center.

LESSONS FROM REMMER

What a great teacher Remmer is for me. First of all, he's got a big horse-analogy, a good play drive, learns quickly and gets bored easily! He's also an interesting mix of bullish self confidence, yet can be very spooky in unfamiliar places. He's athletic, a natural "5" on the impulsion scale, and is a big mover. Here are some of the things Remmer has taught me:

BE SAFE, PREPARE WELL.

The first time I took him out of the pasture soon after I bought him, he freaked. My first trail ride with him was quite scary. I got bucked off when I got back to the arena, where I was trying to work the bugs out of him. He was so scared and full of adrenaline that he spooked violently at a hose, and at the precise moment he spooked, he also bucked



Very photogenic. Remmer makes the cover of Horse & Rider and Ocala Style



hard. It was so fast and powerful I was on the ground before I knew it. Thankfully I landed on my feet! This happened to me one more time before I realized that I had no business taking him off the property. In fact, there were many areas on the property where I couldn't ride him safely either!

When I talked to Pat about it, he reminded me that using longer lines helped horses increase their confidence. I feel so silly looking back on this; I should have known better! The good news is that it strongly impacted me, and I became a better teacher as a result. I used 22-foot and 45-foot lines, gradually developing his confidence in increasingly scary places until finally I knew he'd be confident enough on a trail. It was important to take the time it took—not to rush due to being over-focused about getting out on the trail. Then I took him out with others at first, until finally I could take him by himself.

To this day, if I feel Remmer is afraid of where we are I'll get off and give him lots of line, and play with him until all his tension is gone. Thanks to this program, most people don't know just how spooky and unconfident he used to be.

BE CREATIVE, BE INTERESTING!

Remmer gets bored easily, and when he gets bored he puts out as little energy as possible. He goes from a "5" to a "3" on the Parelli Impulsion Scale. He is the opposite of Siren, a "7" who always had lots of energy to offer and preferred that I was not too creative! When I started doing Impulsion Programs with Remmer, I could not do Bull's-eyes unless they were a 200' circle because he just lost all desire to go forward. Point to Points were the best, and Clover Leafs were effective as long as they were big.

On Line and At Liberty with Remmer is where I learned the most about myself and developed quite significantly. I had to use obstacles and be more provocative to get

him interested or he'd just poop out. Going up my phases definitely did not work. He'd get cranky and defiant and make even less effort. I also learned not to make him repeat things too often or he'd give me the look that said, "What is wrong with you? I've done it already!" It was better to do a little, move on to something else and come back to it here and there if I wanted to work on improving it. Siren was the opposite: he got calmer and better the more I stayed with the one thing. How interesting! To this day, I thrill to Remmer's positive expressions and ears-forward questions.

GET FLUID; DO WHAT THE HORSE DOES.

I credit Remmer with getting me to develop my work called "Fluidity," the ability to explain what it takes to ride better, as though you are one with the horse. It all started with the sitting trot!

A lot of people have trouble with this, and I worked very hard on it during my pre-Parelli dressage training in the mid eighties. I found the sitting trot challenging enough on my



Not getting it right... with his feedback, Remmer helped Linda develop her Fluidity studies



Remmer before
and after... what
a transformation!



Thoroughbreds, but on Remmer it was darn near impossible; so I avoided it for the longest time! I figured that once he got more physically collected it would be easier, but that didn't happen. I asked Pat about it because he never looked like he had trouble sitting a horse's trot, even in demos with big Warmbloods in Europe! As usual, he gave me a simple but deep answer. "Just do what the horse does; stay out of his way." So I knotted my brows and began to think about what that might mean. The next four years saw me deeply entrenched in studying Pat, Remmer, hundreds of students, top riders, biomechanics and saddling experts.

I studied how horses move and what happened when certain parts were restricted, like their back, shoulders, head

or neck. In the same way I made correlations with their riders until one day I realized that wherever the horse was stiff, so was the rider... which made me wonder which came first. I realized that as soon as I got something right, Remmer let me know, because he'd move more freely and I would stop getting shaken like a rag doll! This in turn greatly impacted my teaching to the point that I can now cause riders to make huge changes in their fluidity because I understand where the blocks are.

It's funny now to think that at one point I decided I'd probably never be able to ride him bareback, let alone jump big barrels! That tells you how far he's helped me come as a rider.

ALL UPS, NO DOWNS.

Something people always want to know about is the downs, not just the ups in my relationship with Remmer, but I don't have any. Things don't always go perfectly or as planned. However, that's never bothered me. I never get frustrated, because I respect myself as a student; so I know it's all learning experiences. Every "problem" usually leads me to some amazing breakthrough; so I tend to get fascinated by the process rather than defeated by it. This perspective is something I try to pass on to everyone I teach.

Probably the best thing I've learned with Remmer is to praise him even when he doesn't get it right. Pat taught me long ago that prey animals don't understand punishment; so I never punished Rem, but at the same time, when he didn't get something right I used to ask again and again with more intensity, which would make him tense. Now, I praise and rub him and then try again, gently, and the results are fantastic. I feel like he tries even harder and loves learning. This past year we've made more progress than ever because his feedback from my riding and training experiments is so clear. He lets me know when I get it right... and he certainly lets me know when I don't!

I love this journey and I'm so thankful to have some of the best teachers... Regalo, Siren, Remmer, Allure... and the best interpreter on the planet: Pat Parelli. 🐾



Perfect
harmony,
bareback &
loving it



Mary Ann and Rio (Mary Ann's Level 3 horse)

She's recorded with Faith Hill, LeAnn Rimes, Art Garfunkel, Martina McBride... earned two Grammy nominations for her writing... toured with Sting... and is now living her dream in Tennessee with her two greatest loves—*animals and music.*

Mary Ann Kennedy has been singing, playing guitar and making up songs for as long as she can remember. Her passion for her craft and understanding of the gift of relationships with animals is truly inspiring.

It's no wonder that when she attended her first Parelli Natural Horsemanship clinic in Tennessee in '98 she was hooked. By the summer of 2000 she was well into her study of the Parelli Levels Program.

The loss of two beloved animal friends, "Tonka, my beautiful nine-year-old pinto gaited horse, and Choy, my 15-year-old sweet pug" drew Mary Ann even deeper into the animal-music connection. "Little did I know that losing them would inspire a whole new musical chapter in my life," explains Mary Ann.

This new direction was expressed on her first solo CD, *The Trail Less Traveled*, which caught the attention of Parelli PR Director, Kate Riordan. "Kate invited me to the 2002 Savvy Conference in Colorado," says Mary Ann. "When she told me how Linda loved the CD my heart just smiled REALLY big! I thought, how cool to have my horsemanship mentors appreciate my singing about horses."

After meeting Pat and Linda, Mary Ann continued with her Levels journey, visiting with Pat and Linda whenever their tour came through her home state of Tennessee.

What Rhymes with Fluidity?

How Grammy nominated singer/songwriter Mary Ann Kennedy came to write two new songs for Pat and Linda: "*When You Carry Me*" and "*Green On Green Makes Black & Blue.*"

During one event, Linda approached Mary Ann with a moving request; "Maybe someday you could write something for us?"

It was no surprise that Mary Ann answered with delight, "Hey, say when, give me some ideas!"

Their next rendezvous was during the *Ray Hunt Benefit* in Ft. Worth in April of 2005. Mary Ann mentioned to the Parellis she was working on a new CD. She recalls, "I looked at Pat and said, I'd really like to write *Green on Green [Makes Black and Blue]*. I just love that saying... I think it could be fun. Pat said, 'Do it!'

"Linda said 'I'd really like you to write me a theme song for Fluidity...' My first thought was hmmm, what rhymes with Fluidity? But I knew this was my chance to really prove I was serious and follow through."

Mary Ann embraced the challenge and began the creative process. "A lot of the time my ideas come when I'm riding my horse or driving my truck. It's the movement—it helps channel the creative forces."

After riding one day, she received the inspiration for Linda's request. "I had just finished riding and climbed into my truck. I thought, *oh my*, I think I've got it... *When You Carry Me*. I started saying it as a dance between horse and man, and came up with the melody. I didn't have the final chorus, but I had enough to know that it felt right."

In her excitement, Mary Ann called Linda. "I think I've got it but I want your blessing. I want to know if I'm on track."

Linda said she started choking up from the moment she heard the title. After hearing Mary Ann sing the chorus over the phone she replied through tears, "You're on the right track. I want to ride to this."

When it came to writing Pat's song, *Green on Green*, Mary Ann admits she was a little

nervous. "I thought ooh, I'm going to play this for the judge! I didn't want to put words in his mouth."

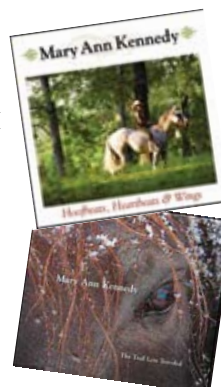
One day while riding, the idea arrived. "I was trying to feel the rhythm of the horse and thought, I've got to do this Bluegrass because it really is tongue in cheek. The trick was to really have it be fun and not judge someone for owning a two-year-old colt! *I can't tell you what to do, but consider this: green on green makes black and blue...*"

Pat and Linda were excited to reveal the new songs at their 2005 Savvy Conference. Linda planned to ride to *When You Carry Me*, but chose instead to play it during a breakthrough moment in a Fluidity lesson with a student and her TB mare. "Everybody cried, including me!" says Mary Ann. *Green On Green* put smiles on many faces when it played during one of Pat's demonstrations. The few sample CDs Mary Ann brought didn't last long and the November release was eagerly awaited by her fans.

Just like horsemanship, creating great music takes time, and Mary Ann is loving every minute of it. "The thing with writing music is you've got to study the tools and the craft, but then it has to go to an almost cellular, spiritual place. When this is combined you have art—it's magic."

To experience the magic of Mary Ann's music, look for *Hoofbeats, Heartbeats & Wings* (includes Pat and Linda's new songs) and *The Trail Less Traveled* CDs at www.parellcollection.com and at Parelli tour events across the USA. 🐾

To learn more about Mary Ann Kennedy, visit www.maryannkenedy.com



behind the camera

How one lecture on Leadership
changed my LIFE.

by Yvonne Wilcox

I was excited *and nervous* at the prospect of videoing six straight weeks of courses in Florida. Standing behind a camera for hours and hours can be very physically challenging.

Little did I know, it was the mental challenge that should have worried me!

As Day One of the course began, I knew we were in for something different. Linda was ready to stretch her students further than ever before. “Empowerment” was her goal and you could feel her focus.

Everything was going great. Great lectures, great demos, great horsemanship, great videoing... then one day it happened. Linda gave a lecture on “Leadership” and I’ve not been the same since.

The lecture was about leadership with horses (of course), but without having my horse there to think about, I found myself thinking about leadership purely in the context of being a wife, a mother, a manager. Boy did I get a wakeup call!

Linda asked the class to call out words to describe good and bad leadership and wrote them on a whiteboard (shown on the opposite page). Looking at the results of this exercise caused me to see why I usually have a hard time in my life.

‘Frustrated,’ ‘Upset,’ ‘Unconfident,’ ‘Easily Rattled,’ ‘Insecure...’ These were words I could relate to. Seeing them side-to-side with words that describe good leadership

really helped me clearly see why I had problems. My leadership qualities amounted to about 60% of the ‘Leader A’ list and about 61% of the ‘Leader B’ list (see words marked with an asterisk on opposite page). What I needed was 100% of the A list and 0% of the B list!

A few embarrassed tears and deep breaths later, I decided the only thing between me and the 100%/0% goal was courage, knowledge, choice and change—*gulp!*

Something I’ve discovered since then is: being motivated to change helps! I was tired and ready for any kind of change.

Linda, thankfully, gave some helpful tips on how to do it.

She said it’s just about getting more



arrows in our quiver. If you feel frustrated, upset... you’re not a failure, you just need more arrows! Simple, right?

She said *she* doesn’t visit the B side of the list very often anymore, but when she does, she seeks the knowledge and advice of

people who can give her the right tools to move forward. She doesn’t go to somebody who will feel sorry for her or support her emotions!

This was the moment of breakthrough for me... “Wait a minute, you mean, you can ask for help?”

Even *thinking* about asking for help when feeling insecure, scared, unconfident, was not something that had occurred to me before. I just thought that was who I was and that was that.

As a result, I became obsessed with asking for help, and here’s where my other breakthrough occurred. Asking for help means admitting you need help... admitting you need help can be tough!

The tough part was recognizing I had to *change my behavior* if I was going to *take* the advice. Also tough was trying to not defend the behavior that needed to change!

In asking for advice, I had to face feeling wrong. I hate being *wrong!* Wrong makes me feel stupid... wrong means I made a mistake... wrong means I’m not okay... Ouch!

A few more tears and deep breaths later...

I toughed it out and kept asking questions. I tried very hard to keep my mouth shut when listening. I tried very hard to not defend why I wasn’t wrong for the current behavior—that was *really* hard.

What helped was changing *HOW* I listened to the advice.

If I listened to the advice in terms of my current behavior, or behavior in the past, I felt lost because there was no way I could go back in time and change that.

If I listened to the advice in terms of what I could change for *NEXT TIME*, I felt excited. I felt empowered with opportunity.

That’s the life-changing part.

I no longer spend my days trying to escape, avoid, or defend my behavior. I just work on being conscious to stop and listen instead of start to defend.

It’s not easy. But the reward on the other side is worth it. I feel confident, and for the first time ever in my life, I feel *free*. 🐾

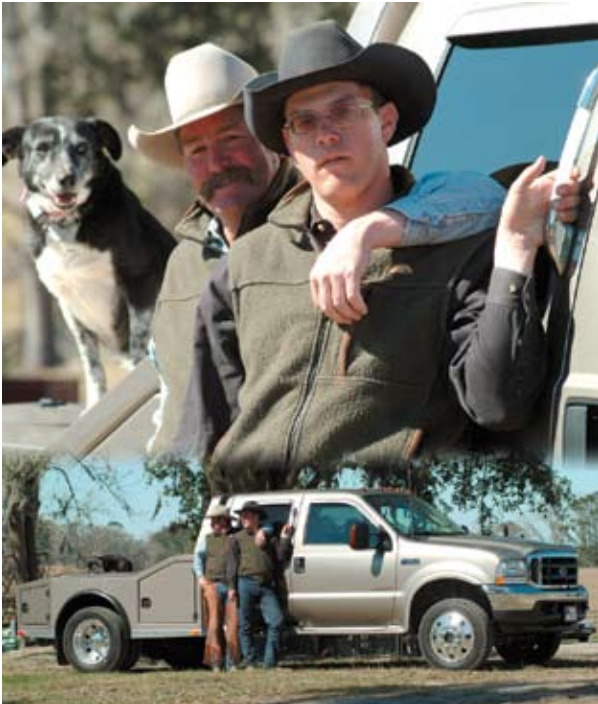
Leader A

Safety* Trusting*
 Confidence Respect
 A Plan Fearless
 Knowledge Clear
 Leadership Motivated*
 Security* Resourceful
 Clarity Inventive*
 Fun Imaginative
 Incentive Empowering
 Consistency* Apologetic*
 Direction Goal oriented
 Caring* Focused
 Understanding* Mentally athletic
 Dependable* Solutionary
 Empathetic* Problem solver
 Calm* Persistent
 Adaptable Courageous
 Flexible* Predictably unpredictable
 Patient* Predictable*

Leader B

Frustrated* Discounted
 Upset* Unclear
 Inadequate* Unsolutionary
 Confused* Dull
 Unconfident* Rigid
 Mad Goal oriented
 Sad Blaming
 Ashamed* Fragile*
 Embarrassed* Easily rattled*
 Ignored Scared*
 Insecure* Frenetic
 Disempowering Nagging
 Perfectionist Unpredictable
 Boring Predictable
 Intolerant Lack of knowledge*
 Impatient

*Me before the lecture



www.neconversions.com • 1-800-429-5850
 A PARELLI PREFERRED PRODUCT

Like Father, Like Son, Like Truck

"Northeast Conversions has taken vehicle conversion to a whole new level. They are the most unique, attractive, and efficient in compartment space."—Pat Parelli

With 20 years experience, Northeast Conversions is New England's premier truck, van, and mobility conversion company. Northeast Conversions offers vehicles from five of the top ten major conversion manufacturers on Dodge, Ford and General Motors chassis. No matter which vehicle you purchase, our main goal is 110% customer satisfaction with your ownership experience.

With twelve full-time employees to serve you and our extensive service and repair

facilities, our customers return again and again for their conversion van needs.

Northeast Conversions service and parts department represent six conversion companies—Chariot Vans, Eclipse Conversions, La-West/ Choo-Choo Customs, Southern Comfort Conversions, and Sherry Designs. All warranty work on our installations is performed in-house.

"A conversion Customer is a once in a lifetime opportunity, where quality, expertise and total commitment makes the difference."



Europe Does Dressage Naturally!

photos courtesy of Karen Rohlf



by Karen Rohlf

There are many ways to cope with the Florida heat: drink lots of fluids, stay inside during the middle of the day, wear clothing that wicks moisture away from you, take about five cold showers a day... OR... leave Florida for a month. This summer I chose the latter!

I put five horses in a pasture, gave them strict instructions to walk up and down the hills everyday, promised my dog I would be back for him, and left on an adventure of doing a series of clinics for Dressage Naturally as an extension of the Parelli Program... in Europe!

My itinerary included clinics organized by the Parelli Instructors: Ingela Sainsbury in England, Edwin and Ariane in Italy, Carmen Zulauf in Switzerland and Eddy Mode in The Netherlands. I also was fortunate to spend some time with Luis Lucio (Olympic Level Dressage rider) in Spain and Luca Moneta (Grand Prix jumper rider and Parelli Level 3) in Italy.

FIRST WAS ENGLAND.

Inge's Assistant, Rachel, picked me up, and we drove directly to Wales where Inge was holding a course. I was a little surprised to find my accommodation was a tent on the beach... but since my luggage was missing it seemed perfect. Who needs a lot of clothes at the beach?!

Inge ran an amazing course out on the sand flats and about 10 of us went swimming with the horses bareback

and bridleless. I was blown away by the experience. About four days later we were back in Inge's town of Shropshire when I finally retrieved my luggage—couldn't exactly have it delivered to a beach. Here I ran a two day course for Parelli students who wanted to learn dressage at Telford Equestrian Center. We had ten participants and about 30 auditors a day. There were 'shared lessons' the day after the course for some of the students. Before the clinic Inge warned me about British students.

"Don't worry if you just see a lot of blank stares, and not many questions. It's a good thing, it means they're happy... because for sure they will say a lot if they are not happy!"

They were a dedicated group of students, and I saw some nice changes in them and their horses. Inge's team of Rachel, Hazel, Vicky and Aaron did an impressive job of organizing and took very good care of me.

After each day of teaching Inge and I went back and played with her horses, a Thoroughbred mare and a Lippizaner gelding, up on top of a hill in a sheep pasture until the sun went down. In England in July the sun doesn't go down until about 10:30PM. I don't remember sleeping much in England. Inge already has some experience in dressage and her horses are quite nice so we were able to really "roll up our sleeves" and take a good look at the dynamics of her dressage. I was excited to spend this time

with Inge. I was able to share, demonstrate and explain my ideas and strategies in depth enough that I know she will be better able to support the students that I taught in England. THAT is a recipe for success!

NEXT ON TO SPAIN!

I flew into Barcelona, picked up a rental car, drove about an hour to my seaside hotel and waited for Luis to pick me up. We met with some of his friends for a dinner on the beach where there was a fireworks show to commemorate the anniversary of the village of Llanvanerras. (Luis said they were special for me, but you can't believe everything Spanish men say!)

The next morning we met at his stable where I changed into some britches, shirt, gloves and tall boots he brought for me because yes, once again my luggage did not make it! It was great to see him again—I had been there in the fall after we attended the Global Dressage Trainers Forum in The Netherlands—and to see the improvement in his horses. It was interesting for me to tune my eye to his picture of biomechanics, especially with the Andalusian horses which have some different concerns than the Warmbloods I am more used to. Luis shared with me his picture of biomechanics, and I shared with him the importance of the “silence between the notes” and maybe some different ways of seeing the training from the horse's point of view. Of course my head was spinning thinking of how I can ask my horses for what he wants in a way that I want and my horse appreciates! He is an amazing talent and very supportive of Parelli... I hope I can continue to observe and contribute to his re-naturalization. It is exciting to see him interested... especially coming from the sport of dressage in a country with a history of ‘macho-ness’ and dominance with regards to horses.

My time with Luis is always full of lively discussion, delicious food, great wine, and beautiful horses. He is energetic and difficult to keep up with, but he is, as he says: “very impassioned” and that is always inspiring to be around.

THEN TOO QUICKLY ON TO ITALY!

This time my luggage arrived on the same flight as me! BUT... through miscommunication... I didn't know where I was supposed to go or how to get there! So long story short, I got the general direction, a rental car and a map and I just started driving! Since I didn't have a European cell phone (a mistake I won't make again) I had to stop every now and then at hotels to use the internet to see if I got a message

as to where to go. Finally (after waiting for a bunch of kids to stop playing silly computer games, and persuading a hotel manager to please get their computer on line using my best Italian charade techniques!) I got directions and as it turned out I wasn't too far off! Of all the places to be driving aimlessly, Tuscany isn't such a bad choice!

I finally arrived at Edwin and Ariane's Savvy Center in Arezzo and was blown away! It is so beautiful and has an energy strangely similar to The Parelli Center in Pagosa Springs! They have really created a special place where students can go and immerse in Parelli culture in the heart of Italy. I did a two day clinic there with 11 participants; including staff there were 54 auditors. It was my first time doing a clinic with a translator, and it was an interesting experience. It really made me think about what I was saying (a good thing!) but sometimes it made it difficult to hold my thought (not such a good thing!). I enjoyed the challenge. I couldn't always get Edwin to act out my horse imitations, but maybe next time!

I was amazed at the concentration level of the auditors. I thought for sure I would lose their attention because of the slowness of the translation process, but they were right with me. That group as a whole asked me more questions than any other... questions that really kept me thinking. There was a mix of Parelli and dressage students in the audience so there were some very interesting discussions. Edwin and Ariane were wonderful hosts and should be truly proud of what they are creating.

After some pasta and wine I drove up past Milano to Luca Moneta's stable. I only got a little lost this time, but Italy is so friendly, I asked someone for directions and he drove there and let me follow him.

It is always great to see Luca. We became fast friends in

Pictured below:
(top left) My accommodations with Inge in England;
(top right) the group with Carmen Zulauf in Switzerland;
(bottom) the whole crew in Italy





The clinic in
the Netherlands

Linda's Level 3 class in 2003 and have not stopped talking and observing and sharing ideas about horses since. He is a big support for me as a fellow professional in the equestrian sport world. Luca has been spending time with Michel Robert (perhaps THE best jumper trainer in the world). What is interesting is that the main focus is again on biomechanics... how can we find optimum balance of horse, rider, and horse and rider together... hmmm sounds like a theme.



Luca had a visiting assistant, Norah from Germany, a Level 3 student who is an amazing natural talent. At Luca's I felt an atmosphere of everyone learning from each other. During one of the lessons I gave, Luca had to take an intermission and needed a couple beers and an impassioned discussion to work out what wasn't working. This is a real challenge... how do you always do what's right for your horse in the moment... and still take a lesson? And how do you support someone through something very specific and particular, and still allow them to be there for their horse... interesting stuff that expands me as a teacher and student.

While I was there, a Level 3 student from Italy came in with a horse he has in training. He was a very top quality Hannoverian who had developed 'issues' in his dressage (running out of the arena and back to the barn even with the trainer on him). I played with the horse for four days and found some different layers of problems. The owner was thrilled with the progress and brought his daughter and her horse in for a lesson also. They are competitive in the Italian Junior championships and both the horses are under the direction of the Italian Dressage Federation. The daughter is a very clever rider with a lovely willing horse (but somehow they were stiff and against each other all the time). Through

some very simple exercises, and again some Italian charades on my part (she spoke no English), she was able to feel her horse offer to carry himself for the first time. Her horse could feel her trust him. They both were smiling! The father has said they are now 100% committed to doing dressage naturally!

SWITZERLAND

Next, on to do a clinic organized by Carmen Zulauf in Avenches, the French part of Switzerland. I drove. I did not get lost. My luggage was with me the whole time.

Avenches is absolutely beautiful and home of the Institut Equestre National Avenches, a top notch facility. It was started by the government but now privately owned. The goal was to have a facility that anyone who liked horses would have a reason to visit. There are Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing, eventing, dressage, driving and jumping facilities. Oh yeah, and a full restaurant with a viewing area to the indoors! Carmen is lucky enough to lease a barn there. It was great to see a Parelli Instructor set up in such a top notch and highly visible place, especially one doing such a good job.

I did two days of clinic in the main indoor arena. It was translated into French, and Carmen was even more reluctant than Edwin to do my funny horse simulations (I didn't realize before how much I do that!). Again it was a strong group of ten students, and about 20 auditors, including a professional from France, Antoine Baucaud. Antoine is a very passionate horseman and extremely interesting. He observed closely, and his eyes would start twinkling. He would have to go get Carmen to translate something. Someday I hope to hear all he has to say. He showed us a video of a tape he made a long time ago (the 60s) about rider position and Linda would love it! It was all about the balance point and (very silly looking) exercises to help the rider achieve balance and... fluidity!

After the clinic I spent another two-and-a-half days there playing with Carmen and her horse. Wally Gegenschatz (Parelli Instructor and Horse Specialist) came with two of his Spanish horses. Some of Carmen's more advanced students were also invited to stay, and we had full days of observing and teaching. Carmen has a lovely Warmblood that she has already started dressage with, and again, we really "rolled up our sleeves" and took a look at the dynamics of her dressage and the biomechanics. We used Principle number seven to take them both to the next level and the results were amazing. They were moving around the arena on air and finished with an extended trot to die for. I was so proud! And even happier because, just as in England, I felt to have this time with the Instructor of the students I just taught was another recipe for success. Wally's horses are very nice, and I enjoyed the opportunity to share with one of Parelli's talented Horse Specialists. Our theme was biomechanics, but also how to keep the Freestyle within the Finesse. This is the challenge of Finesse.

I was sad to leave another enthusiastic group. I drove back to Luca's and the next day I had... an actual half day off! A student of Luca's invited me to visit him, and since he lived not far from the next airport I needed, I took him up on it. He is a top level jumper rider who decided that Luca, with his natural methods, is the trainer for him. He lives near a village called Sirmione by Lake Garda between Milano and Venice. We went on a short trail ride, then had lunch with his parents (where I almost committed a sin by putting my salad on the same plate I ate the pasta on... silly American!). His father is a well known Italian artist, Athos Faccincani and he sent me home with two limited edition signed prints. You just gotta love these Italians. Then we went to a beautiful lake by a castle and actually spent a few hours NOT talking about horses. I realized (again) how important balance is in all aspects of my life.

It was very difficult to pull myself off of that lake to go catch a plane, but I did.

ON TO THE NETHERLANDS!

Eddy Modde organized a demo/presentation at the headquarters for the Dutch Warmblood Association in Warjig. There were about 100 spectators who were divided between dressage and Parelli backgrounds. Eddy began by giving a short explanation of the Parelli Program using his very attractive Dutch horse. Then I played with his horse to show the basic progression into the fundamentals of dressage. It still amazes me how quickly horses with a Parelli foundation can achieve some of the ingredients of dressage.

We were lucky enough to have a professional dressage instructor come with her upper level horse to be a guinea pig. I observed the horse and rider, gave my impressions and then played with him to try to 'hard-target' the key issues that were preventing the horse from further progress. It was a lovely, sweet horse, but the rider was having trouble with him getting heavy and uneven in the collected movements. What I felt from him was a sense of obligingness, but not of participation. When asked for maximum collection he and his rider fell into the trap of holding each other up... he was willing to let her collect him, but he didn't know how to collect himself! Since collection is a combination of energy, balance and flexion, I checked each of those systems and found that I could talk with him about energy and flexion in isolation, but when I spoke to him about rocking his weight back his answer was, "Huh?"

I focused on establishing communication about backing up (bringing the weight "south"). His rider was very intrigued and saw her horse with new eyes. When I left she was asking how she could learn more!

I will close with a little side story. When I arrived in England my luggage didn't make it. Because we went directly to a beach in Wales, I wasn't reunited with my clothes until four days later. As I had to make do I was sometimes frustrated and it was sometimes awkward. I thought, "This is kind of like how it feels in horsemanship when you don't have all the 'tools and techniques...' you know what you want to do, but it is difficult to get it done. BUT, if you are creative and patient you can make it work with what you have."

When I went to Italy, I had my luggage (tools). I was never lost. I just didn't know where I was going! So as I wandered through Tuscany (there are worse places in the world to wander!) I thought, "Well this is like when students get their Level 3. They have all their tools with them. They know where they are, but they don't always know where to go with it." With people and horses, a purpose is important. By learning about the requirements of dressage, we often find out why we need those yields so good, or why we need those responsibilities to be met... We learn what we can talk to our horses now that we have established communication. So if I and my dressage naturally clinics can provide a direction or a destination to aim for, then I am happy. I hope there are many happy conversations about biomechanics, balance, power and relaxation happening now; and I hope the horses are finding them interesting! 🐾



Blast from the Past



It's natural that dogs should be man's best friend. We are alike. Dogs are pack hunters with strong social bonds, binocular stereoscopic vision, and well developed territorial and aggressive instincts. We are smarter; they are faster. We can plan, and therefore dominate them. They have better developed senses of smell and hearing.

All this makes for a symbiotic relationship. Dogs and man need each other. In the past, dogs guarded us when we lived in caves, as well as hunting with us. Later they herded our flocks. Importantly, they provide companionship.

But horses and man are natural enemies, and for good reason. For hundreds of thousands of years all we did with horses was eat them. Beyond that, we have used them as our servants and controlled them through methods natural to us: force, aggressiveness, and brutality. It is completely logical that man and horses should be incompatible.

THE HORSE IS PREY

The horse evolved as a small, multiple toed, swamp dwelling species. As rain forest changed to savanna, it adapted to the drier grasslands by becoming larger, swifter, and single toed. It is a typical prey species having lateral vision: eyes set on the side of the head so that creatures stalking them can be observed.

Horses are exquisitely perceptive animals with very sensitive hearing,

We'd like to take a moment to bring you a blast from the past! This article by Dr. Miller was published in the first magazine Parelli ever produced, "The Natural Horseman" Volume 1, Issue 1, April/May/June 1995.

Overcoming the Stigma of "The Hunting Ape" The Prey—Predator Difference

sense of smell and tactile sense. They have excellent eyes which can see all around them, even at night, and which can detect the slightest movement. Their eyesight is so good that they can see the blink of an eye of a predator sneaking up on them.

Because of their extremely fast response time, these powerful animals can accelerate quickly into a life-saving sprint. Flight is their primary defense behavior. However, this isn't true of all grazing prey species. Many others are equipped with horns, which they are quick to use against threatening predators.

Common to them all is that each eye transmits a separate message to the brain. In the case of the horse that message is, "Danger! Run!"

DIRECTLY OPPOSITE IS MAN

As a species, man is a tool using, hunting primate, with the aggressive instincts, the

territoriality, and the instinct for combat that characterizes other predators.

The scientific evidence is irrefutable. Man evolved from earlier tree dwelling primates. The chimpanzee is, biologically, man's nearest relative. While they do not actually hunt, chimpanzees are omnivorous, and they are opportunists. They will rob birds' nests and eat the eggs; they will catch and eat small game or helpless fawns; and they will eat carrion. They are not above cannibalism (shades of primal human behavior). Their DNA is similar to our own.

Early man learned how to walk erect, then how to run, and then how to use tools including the spear. Having free hands because of a bipedal gait, and having excellent stereoscopic vision and depth perception, it became easy for man to become a hunter—a predator. Unlike the larger carnivorous species with powerful teeth and jaws, capable of running as fast as zebras or gazelles, man became an effective hunter because of his vision, his intelligence, and his ability to fashion weapons and use them from a distance. Man became "The Hunting Ape."

We are anthropologically recognized as a hunting and gathering species. In some predatory species, one gender does most of the hunting. In the African lion, for example, one of the few cats which lives and hunts in groups, the female does most



of the killing and the prey is shared with the entire pride!

In all primitive human societies, the men do the hunting. Until very recent times, geologically speaking, the men hunted and the women gathered the food. More significantly, the young men did most of the hunting. This is typically why today women, children, and old men are considered less intimidating by horses than are young men.

DIFFERENTIATING PREDATOR TYPES

Common to predators is that they have stereoscopic binocular vision. This means that they eyes are set on the front of the face so that both eyes focus on the same object at the same time. The two images

are transmitted to the brain where they are absorbed as a single image. This gives depth perception, which enables one to accurately judge distances. Though the benefits of this type of vision vary between species, it is essential to the being of most predators.

The earliest pre-hominids were tree dwelling creatures which were adapted to an African rain forest habitat. Most primates: monkeys, apes, and related species are climbers. They use brachiation, or swinging through the trees, as a primary defense technique. It is obviously essential for this type of animal to have excellent depth perception as a miss can mean a catastrophic fall.

Lions or cheetahs, which are short winded but very swift running species, must be able to accurately judge the distance to their quarry in order to estimate the lead, speed, and direction of their charge. Their prey is usually swift grazing animals with lots of stamina. These cats would not be able to hunt successfully without the ability to pinpoint a strike location.

Hawks, which spot rodents from great altitudes must also have excellent depth perception in order to free fall and scoop

up their prey. An error in time/distance estimation means either a missed meal—or death.

MAN AND THE HORSE

Perhaps six thousand years ago, some human got on a horse's back. Chances are it was a young boy who was playing with a foal. Man, the opportunist, and most adaptable of all species, saw in the horse



to fashion weapons and use them from a distance. Man became "The Hunting Apes."

Common to predators is that they have stereoscopic binocular vision. This means that they eyes are set on the front of the face so that both eyes focus on the same object at the same time. The two images are transmitted to the brain where they are absorbed as a single image. This gives depth perception, which enables one to accurately judge distances. Though the benefits of this type of vision vary between species, it is essential to the being of most predators.

The earliest pre-hominids were tree dwelling creatures which were adapted to an African rain forest habitat. Most primates: monkeys, apes, and related species are climbers. They use brachiation, or swinging through the trees, as a primary defense technique. It is obviously essential for this type of animal to have excellent depth perception as a miss can mean a catastrophic fall.

Lions or cheetahs, which are short winded but very swift running species, must be able to accurately judge the distance to their quarry in order to estimate the lead, speed, and direction of their charge. Their prey is usually swift grazing animals with lots of stamina. These cats would not be able to hunt successfully without the ability to pinpoint a strike location.

Hawks, which spot rodents from great altitudes must also have excellent depth perception in order to free fall and scoop

up their prey. An error in time/distance estimation means either a missed meal—or death.

Perhaps six thousand years ago, some human got on a horse's back. Chances are it was a young boy who was playing with a foal. Man, the opportunist, and most adaptable of all species, saw in the horse

the ultimate weapon. Horseback, man could run faster and travel farther than he ever could afoot, and thereafter the history of mankind was never the same.

The horse became man's most important servant, and civilization progressed on the back of horses. It wasn't easy for man, a predator, to learn how to control and get along with this flighty, fearful, powerful prey animal.

Historically, the relationship between man and horse has been hindered because it is instinctive in man, especially in younger men, to "fight the wild beast."

This instinct has kept the human species alive for a million years.

Of course, there were always certain perceptive people who had the insight and the gift of bonding with horses. These people could get horses to do their bidding using gentle, more subtle, and less confrontational handling techniques. Xenophon, the Greek horseman, described such techniques over two thousand years ago.

Why Haven't Gentler Techniques Prevailed?

There are many reasons why the more subtle methods of horse handling have failed to gain universal acceptance. Throughout history most horsemen were attached men. The reins of the superior horseman could become known to them by word of mouth. Exchanging ideas was a painstaking process then it is today.

Additionally, man is a ritualistic species. Tradition is a powerful force, and we are inclined to do things the way we were taught when we were young—the way they have "always been done." In spite of all of our advances, change is difficult for us.

Finally, as stated before: man saw the horse as the ultimate weapon—first, and as a servant, second. A relationship with the horse was the means to a goal, not the goal itself.

The information explosion has reached the horse industry. Today's horse owners are educated people. Their minds are more open. They read books, subscribe to magazines and buy videos. The great value in education is that it makes us aware of how much we don't know, and how much there is to learn.

Today's horse owners attend clinics. Clinicians travel by jet all over the world, teaching horse owners better methods of relating to their horses. Many of these clinicians have written books and produced videos to help horse owners when they are not physically able to be there for support.

Psychology has become an accepted science. One of the newest scientific disciplines, psychology is only a century old. Only in the last half of the twentieth century have people, in general, come to accept the validity of the science. People have become willing to utilize it, to seek counseling, and to realize that a whole technology of behavior shaping has been discovered.

Women, in our culture today, dominate the horse industry which for thousands of years has been a male dominated activity.

"Historically, the relationship between man and horse has been hindered because it is instinctive in man, especially younger men, to 'fight the wild beast.'"

Throughout history most horsemen were unschooled men. The ideas of the superior horsemen could only become known to them by word of mouth. Exchanging ideas was a much more painstaking process than it is today.

Additionally, man is a ritualistic species. Tradition is a powerful force, and we are inclined to do things the way we were

taught when we were young—the way they have "always been done." In spite of all of our advances, change is difficult for us.

Finally, as stated before: man saw the horse as the ultimate weapon—first, and as a servant, second. A relationship with the horse was the means to a goal, not the goal itself.

THE REVOLUTION IN HORSEMANSHIP

The information explosion has reached the horse industry. Today's horse owners are educated people. Their minds are more open. They read books, subscribe to magazines and buy videos. The great value in education is that it makes us aware of how much we don't know, and how much there is to learn.

Today's horse owners attend clinics. Clinicians travel by jet all over the world, teaching horse owners better methods of relating to their horses. Many of these clinicians have written books and produced videos to help horse owners when they are not physically able to be there for support.

Psychology has become an accepted science. One of the newest scientific disciplines, psychology is only a century old. Only in the last half of the twentieth century have people, in general, come to accept the validity of the science. People have become willing to utilize it, to seek counseling, and to realize that a whole technology of behavior shaping has been discovered.

Women, in our culture today, dominate the horse industry which for thousands of years has been a male dominated activity.

Until this century it was unthinkable for women to become involved with horses in most human cultures. Women, as a general rule, being less aggressive in their attitude, demeanor, and approach than men, are less intimidating to horses. They are usually more receptive to non-confrontational training methods. Such methods are more natural to the horse.

Thus we see a change in horsemanship. Male horse handlers, seeing the effectiveness of training methods natural to the horse, are subscribing to these methods. We see horsemen like Pat Parelli, Tom & Bill Dorrance, Ray Hunt... and others, all former cowboys, introduced originally to MACHO horsemanship, who have made the change. Such people are in the forefront of the revolution. They



have used and seen the old and the new. They know better than anyone else which methods are faster, more lasting and more humane. They know which methods turn out better horses.

A HORSE IS A HORSE

We can't expect the horse to change. It's a prey species and deep down always will be. We are a predatory species, but we also have the power of reason. We can rise above our animal instincts and adopt a code of behavior which is more civilized. We can decide what is humane, and what is moral. We can, if we will, do this in all aspects of life, not just in the way we use horses. 🐾



by Cynthia McFarland

Ever wonder how some people have a great equine partner, while others end up with a horse that's more poison than partner? You can either pick your partner or pick your poison. It depends on your own skill level and the unique personality, or as Pat likes to put it, "horseanality," of the horse you choose.

Every horse, (make that every mule, too!) has their own "horseanality" based on three things: innate characteristics, learned behavior, and spirit. There are four things we want the horse, or in this case, the mule, to have: confidence, dignity, curiosity and sensitivity.

Let's look at Kokomo Joe, a 10-year-old mule Pat's owned for about five years. Pat has been riding mules since his early twenties and has trained over 300 of the long-eared beauties.

"Mules are just like horses, but more so," says Pat. "You must treat a mule like you should treat a horse."

Things you might get away with while working with a horse can get you in trouble with a mule, and that is because a mule demands respect. You won't get far with a mule if you don't respect him... and he'll know if you don't!

Kokomo Joe has been used in many demonstrations, and it's easy to see why. He is laid back and quiet, but very tractable and willing. He'll do the exact same things you'd see a horse doing in Pat's demonstrations.

"He's very willing," notes Pat. "Mules get a bad rap for being stubborn but this is because of 'hybrid vigor,' which comes from crossing two species that are close to each other, such as the mare and the donkey. In the past, a lot of incorrigible mares were crossed with donkeys, but this worked against them and created a lot of stubborn mules."

Watch Kokomo Joe in action and you'll agree the only thing that sets him apart from the horses in the arena are his mule conformation and long ears. He has great, smooth gaits and responds quickly to his rider's cues.

He knows he's loved and respected; he understands the language his rider uses to communicate with him; and he confidently trusts in the leadership of that rider. Those three key components together spell success, whether the animal in question is a horse or a mule, but Pat has found they are especially important when working with mules.

"It takes love, language and leadership in equal doses to train a mule," Pat says. "This really is a mule training program because you must treat a mule like you should treat a horse." 🐾





www.ParelliCollection.comTM

Where you find the great clothes, terrific accessories, handy inventions, and lots of worthwhile things for horsemanship, horseplay, health and Parelli life!



Love it! Live it! Look it!



Savvy Club Members
enjoy 10% OFF
every item priced at \$100 or less.
and 5% OFF most items
priced at more than \$100.
Just log in on
www.parellcollection.com
with your Savvy Club number, and
your special pricing will appear on
every item page.

(Not valid in conjunction with any other special discounts)

A Level 2 Journey: Part 5

with Yvonne Wilcox



Riding simulations during the Fluidity Course with Linda... We learned—and laughed—a lot.

For the past nine years I've been talking about it, writing about it, advertising it, creating brochures for it... and now I finally got to experience it! My first two week course at the Parelli Center in Colorado.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of my associates in the Graphics and Media Department at Parelli, I was able to abandon computers, meetings and deadlines for something much more important—*time with my horse!*

The recent advancements Escada and I had made in our riding helped me to know we were ready. I could get her left brain on the ground, know when she was ready to ride and have successful rides. Canter was our only "issue," but I wasn't too worried about that.

I chose the course, *Fluidity with Linda*, to be able to spend uninterrupted, full days with my horse in a guided environment. I knew our relationship would advance just from this fact alone. Whatever Linda could teach me on top of this would be a bonus!

My favorite part of "Orientation" (the afternoon before the opening of the course) was listening to Alain Martignier prepare us for the journey we were about to begin. His 'savvy tip'

for surviving the ups and downs is still very clear in my mind. "If you ever might be feeling a bit down, just look out to the mountains [the spectacular San Juan range of the Rocky Mountains visible from the Parelli Center] and see where you might be. Then notice that the mountains go down... and then up, then down, then up..." Great advice that I'm now applying to life in general.

Also memorable was the presentation on DVD by Dr. Stephanie Burns. This was not words from somebody wishing me a happy vacation. This was excellent advice from somebody who cared that I could squeeze every ounce of learning out of my course!



Escada liked to remind me where the gate was in her pen.

Student: Vonni [Yvonne Wilcox]

Horse: Escada [Kenlyn Muscata]

Age/Breed: 6-year-old Bay Arabian Mare

Currently studying: Level 2 Freestyle/Finesse and Level 3 On Line/Liberty.

Levels Goal: Used to be: To complete Level 3 On Line/Liberty before trying to achieve Level 2 Freestyle/Finesse.

Now: To go as far in our relationship as we can and enjoy every little step of the journey.

In the last four issues of Savvy Times, Yvonne has shared her journey through Level 2-3 ground skills and what it was like to have a Fluidity lesson on Linda's Warmblood.

With cantering now her challenge, Yvonne describes her experiences with Escada during the August 2005 Fluidity Course in Colorado.

Here are some highlights from the course...

INCENTIVE

After her first night in a Parelli Center pen, Escada quickly figured out that I was the bringer of the food and water. I decided to make a habit of backing her out of her pen to go to water and then backing her in when we came back. One day I was sitting on the rail of her pen, just observing (an assignment from Linda), and she walked up to me, pushed me, turned, walked to the gate, nibbled at it, then swung her hind end around and backed up to it! I was stunned by how clever she must be and yet worried at the same time...

BRAIN STRETCH

I wasn't really prepared for just how much I was going to learn at this course. At day four my whole existence with Escada was challenged! I realized that every time I played with her, my "expectations" were still more important than our relationship. I've touched this subject before and thought I was over it, but no. The next time I played with her I tried to do the opposite of everything I thought of doing. We ended up playing together in the sprinkler! Not something I'd



I love my Level 2 map! Before I would spend too much time on just one thing and not recognize I was ready to try more new things.

CANTER BUCKING!

The big issue... and thankfully undone! Linda helped me see the two main reasons I was having trouble:

- #1. I was asking my very sensitive horse for a canter using Phase 3-4 instead of Phase 1. I found that Phase 1 for Escada was me softly cantering in my upper body and not touching her with my legs at all!

- #2. Escada didn't want me on her while she cantered because I felt terrible to her. After some heavy concentration on improving my Fluidity, Linda coached me using *Transitions* (in the new Level 2) to connect with Escada's wandering mind. It took some deep breaths and persistence to achieve it, but we did it! The first time we transitioned from a trot to a canter with no bucking I screamed "woohoo" and threw my arms in the air. Linda quickly told me to quit while I was ahead (she must have read my mind, I didn't want to stop). So I leaped off my horse, scratched her favorite itchy spot and called it a day.

I can see why folks keep coming back to the Parelli

Centers year after year, and why some never leave. It's addictive! But I did squeeze every ounce out of the experience and I'll be using it ALL now that Escada and I are back home. 🐾

have done if I'd "thought" about it.

NEW FLUIDITY SIMULATIONS

Linda's not kidding when she proclaims to be "obsessed" with learning. Her research into Fluidity is never ending and just keeps getting better. Our class practiced many new simulations to become more aware of what we're doing and not doing when riding. In one task, two people would walk together, each with their arm around the other's waist. You had to walk, trot, turn, stop and backup in time with your partner. My biggest problem is being "behind the movement" and this simulation revealed it!

The feedback from my fellow simulator mirrored my horse's expressions—ears back... crabby... It was great to practice and improve this without my horse having to suffer through my learning.

"STICKY FEET"

One afternoon the class had to go into the Cover-All to escape the rain. It was dark, rainy and windy to boot! Now, Escada's

come pretty far in her travels from Right Brain, but this was a stretch! I decided to not get on and just hold her while I watched the class. Nothing I tried had much effect on her bouncy feet. When Linda invited questions the next day I was quick to put up my hand.

Linda drew me out to demonstrate a simulation she calls *Sticky Feet*. She held my upper arms and asked me to behave like Escada. I started bouncing around and then Linda started bouncing me around—back and forth, side to side. It turned my frantic bouncing into a kind of controlled bouncing and then I didn't feel like bouncing anymore. I stopped and firmly planted my feet to the ground. I love sticky feet! When I tried it with Escada it had exactly the same effect as it did on me.



Cantering was fun when it wasn't about bucking!

Begin your dream.



Parelli Level 1

Safety • Communication • Relationship • Leadership

Live your dream.



Parelli Level 2

Confidence • Fun • Independence • Imagination



Get your Free DVD at
www.parelli.com
or call 1.800.642.3335

"These days it is so hard to know what to do for our horses in terms of their best care, and I take very seriously my role in introducing to you the things we know work. They are what we have been using with proven results that you can trust."
—Linda Parelli



 PO Box 3729
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 186
LONG BEACH, CA

COVER-ALL
BUILDING SYSTEMS

www.coverall.net
1-800-268-3768

NORTHEAST

CONVERSIONS

www.neconversions.com
1-800-429-5850

WINNIE'S
COOKIES

www.winniescookies.com
1-800-810-9466